

# 玉女様の 高級尋問官

月鬼竜之介著  
睦苅画

*Princess's Hi-ranking  
Interrogator*



美少女たちの秘密を暴くと淫れてしまうのは何故だろう?~

Why do pretty girls get hooked when revealed the secret?

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# **Illustrations**

# 玉女様の 高級尋問官

～美少女たちの秘密を暴くと涙れてしまうのは何故だろう?～

Princess's Hi-ranking Interrogator

◎著 兎月竜之介

◎画 瞳茸

「私の、乳首つ  
こんなに硬くなつて……敏感でつ  
」

ガブリエラは硬く起立した。ピンクのつぼみを力一杯につねる。

彫刻ポーブ責め

第一王女  
ガブリエラ

  
**Bottom Right:** First Princess Gabriella

**Left:** "My... nipples♥ They've become so hard... so sensitive♥"

**Far Left:** Gabriella pinches the hard pink buds with all her remaining power.

**Bottom Left:** Torture by Sculpture Pose

瞬間、決定的なまでに彼女の瞳が快楽の色に染まった。

「私、アレンと離れたくないつ♥  
もつと叱つてつ♥ 気持ちよくしてつ♥  
こんなに正直な気持ち、  
あなたにしか言えないのつ♥  
離さないでつ♥

ずっと一緒にいて～つ♥」

第二王女  
エルフィリア

本音暴露責め



**Top Left:** Second Princess Elphilia

**Top Far Right:** Instantly and decisively, her eyes are dyed with pleasure.

**Top Right:** “I... don’t want Allen to leave me♥ Please scold me more♥  
Please make me feel good♥ I can only tell my honest feelings to you♥  
Don’t let me go♥ Stay with me forever~~~~~♥”

**Bottom Left:** Torture by Exposing True Feelings



## CENTER IMAGE

**Top:** Marianne – The third princess of the Kingdom of Virginia. She wants to keep Allen away from Elphilia. She loves Elphilia, who had stayed by her side while she was hospitalized due to her frail health.

**Right:** “In this darkness, you can touch me as much as you want♥ L-look...  
Please♥ Please touch me♥”

**Middle:** Torture by Spooooooky Stories

## RIGHT IMAGE

**Right:** “Nnm.....nnnm.....naahh♥”

**Left:** She makes a circle with her left index finger and thumb, and then she begins licking with her tongue as if “something” is in her hand. {TL: “Something” includes censored furigana to make this as lewd as possible}

**Top:** Helping Allen with his interrogation ~Getting along extremely well♥~

## LEFT IMAGE

**Top Right:** Rosa – Allen’s younger sister and Marianne’s bodyguard. She has had special feelings for Allen since they were young and followed his footsteps to become a bodyguard. She still seems intent on marrying him.....

**Bottom Left:** “Big brother’s finger♥ It’s as if, it’s reaching deep inside my body♥ Like my most sensitive spots are being stirred up♥”

**Top Left:** Torture by Older Brother Cuckoldry {Onii-sama Netorare}



**Top Right:** Just for tonight, they can be normal girls.

# Chapter 8 - Let's Go to a Concert!

The sound of a wooden sword swinging down echoes through the courtyard of the princess palace.

The young man wielding the sword, Allen Brackish, is twenty-two years old and has a strong, handsome face. The white uniform he wears identifies him as a bodyguard, a shield to protect the princess.

(Even though my job as a bodyguard is just a cover, keeping up a daily routine is essential...)

Allen finishes his practice routine and lowers the wooden sword he is holding.

The Kingdom of Virginia's royal family has a huge problem.

Although the king is often ill, he has yet to decide which of his six daughters will be his successor. The king is trying to choose carefully, but his indecision is bound to cause conflicts between the princesses.

Allen's employer, the second princess, Elphilia Virginia, is left in a dangerous position, knowing that her enemies could send assassins or other agents after her at any time. Allen's true job is to interrogate such agents, as Elphilia's "high-ranking interrogator".

As a high-ranking interrogator he is capable of questioning even Elphilia's blood relatives if the situation warrants it. Failure is not an option, so the job always carries a heavy responsibility, but fortunately for Allen, he has certain hidden talents that make him a skilled interrogator.

Thanks to Elphilia's demonstration of how to apply his "Power to See Through Lies" and "Power to Detect Weaknesses", both of which were

cultivated during his time serving in the Royal Order of Knights, to interrogation, Allen is able to lead a brand new life as a high-ranking interrogator. Because of this, Allen is determined to keep Elphilia safe, even if it costs him his life.

(Although, in peacetime, it's really just a leisurely job...)

Wrapping up his daily routine of sword practice, Allen leaves the courtyard of the princess's palace.

Allen is the only man currently permitted to live in one of the princess palaces. However, he is worried about feeling suffocated by being surrounded by women all the time. For this reason, he had his room prepared in an out-of-the-way place in the princess palace.

After dressing himself in his room, Allen heads to the room of his employer, Elphilia.

Elphilia's room is on the very top floor of the palace. It is protected by a powerful warding spell, making it impossible for anyone to intrude, let alone spy on, without permission. It is the perfect place to talk about something she doesn't want anyone to overhear.

When Allen arrives at the landing of the top floor, he finds two girls waiting for him there.

The dignified maid with short-cut, black hair and brown skin is Kurone, a colleague of Allen's. She is not only Elphilia's head maid but also, like Allen, her bodyguard, and he heard that she has been friends with Elphilia for a long time.

The girl with long, pale pink hair and wearing a white, high collar uniform like Allen's own is Diana, who was his junior in the Royal Order of Knights. Unlike Allen and Kurone, she works for the first princess, Gabriella Virginia.

Perhaps it is because they are both bodyguards, but the two girls look very happy chatting with each other.

Kurone, who usually has a serious expression on her face, seems to soften when she speaks with Diana.

“Allen-sama, Elphilia-sama is waiting for you.”

“Allen-dono, I’m sorry to intrude.”

“Ah, thank you both for your hard work.”

Having two beautiful women smile at you is not a bad feeling.

He is also relieved that his colleagues have a good impression of him.

(After that situation with Diana...)

Allen had acted as her lover for a time in order to keep Diana safe, the ruse being kept a secret to the girl in question. Of course, after resolving various issues, he told her the truth of the matter. Diana was very understanding about the situation, saying, “After I calmed down, I kind of figured it out”, but Allen still wants to make it up to her.

“It’s Allen Brackish. I’m coming in.”

Allen announces his arrival and then pulls open the door to Elphilia’s room.

The room takes up the entire top floor and is dedicated entirely for her personal use. There is a tea table in the center of the room, where she usually sits to read or work, but today there is no sign of her.

Allen has a suspicion, and turns his gaze to the balcony on the south side of the room.

There...

“Wh-what do you think of this method of application, Elphilia?”

“It’s certainly easier than applying it with just the hands, Gabriella-onee-sama.”

...the naked bodies of the two princess sisters are entwined together in a single figure.

Apparently, the sisters are applying suntan lotion on each other's skin, their bodies in close contact with one another. The sight of their shapely breasts overlapping each other and their voluptuous bodies sticking together causes Allen to briefly forget that the two are esteemed royalty.

"You're right on time, Allen."

"...Eh? A-Allen's here!?"

"Onee-sama. Allen is here, so let's stop sunbathing for now."

"Eh? Eh?"

Elphilia gets up from the chaise lounge and walks towards Allen, pulling a completely disoriented Gabriella by the hand. The two girls' bodies glisten radiantly due to the coating of suntan lotion.

Their behaviors are starkly contrasting.

Elphilia makes no attempt to hide even her most private parts as she dominates the scene on the balcony.

Gabriella tries to cover herself by pressing her free left arm against her bountiful chest, but the slimy, milk-like fluid smeared over her body causes her breasts to constantly slip out of her grasp when she tries.

The naked bodies of the princess he serves and her older sister... From the cherry blossom colored buds on the tips of their breasts to the neatly trimmed bushes on their lower abdomen, their everything being put on full display is causing Allen to become dizzy.

(Elphilia-sama doesn't have any reservation about these things at all...)

In Allen's experience, it is better not to be shy in these situations.

In the first place, there is no need for a royal lady to concern herself with the gaze of a mere bodyguard.

“W-w-w-why did you call Allen at a time like this!?”

“I meant to tell you while we were sunbathing... Was it a bad idea?”

“Of... of course it was! Allen saw me naked!”

Gabriella, regaining a bit of her senses, hurries to hide herself behind Elphilia's back.

She then gives Allen a withering glare as if he were an enemy of the whole kingdom.

“He... he's licking all over the body I'm so proud of with his eyes while pretending to be faithful to his duties..... I'll punish you later, so be prepared!”

“There's nothing to be embarrassed about, onee-sama. Right, Allen?”

Elphilia flashes him a sweet smile.

“Yes. Gabriella-sama body is nothing to be ashamed of.”

This is Allen's honest opinion.

The girls in front of him may even have the two most beautiful bodies in the world.

“R-really? If that's the case, then... I suppose I could let you take a closer look... or even touch..... Ah! There is no way I can do that! Diana, help me! My common sense isn't working!”

At the summon of her mistress, Diana enters the room...

...And immediately freezes upon seeing Gabriella's exposed body.

“Umm..... Gabriella-sama? Perhaps you should use the towel stuck in the chair?”

“I..... I didn’t think of that!”

Gabriella covers herself with the towel and leaves the room in a panic.

Diana follows her after gathering up her mistress’s discarded clothes.

“Oh my, she’s gone.....”

Elphilia looks deeply disappointed.

Kurone, who has replaced Diana in the room, begins to wipe down her despondent mistress’s body with a towel.

“Gabriella-sama is the kind of person who doesn’t want a gentleman to see her sunbathing.”

“It’s normal to sunbathe in the nude, so I don’t think there’s anything shameful about it..... nnm♥ Th-there..... Kurone, you still haven’t learned how to wipe my body without tickling me♥”

“We-well, my real job is as your bodyguard after all...”



“Maybe I should have Allen help me instead from now on?”

Elphilia teases him, stirring a nervous feeling inside Allen.

(Even though I’ve grown used to my heart being toyed with every day, if you make me do something like that——)

“Absolutely not!!”

Suddenly, Kurone loudly objects.

Everyone is silent for a moment as Kurone stands there looking horrified.

“I-I’m very sorry... But I’m going have to disagree with Elphilia-sama’s suggestion this time...”

Kurone bows her head deeply.

Elphilia gently strokes her hair to comfort her.

“I’m sorry I made a heartless joke without thinking about your feelings. Kurone is the only one I can entrust my personal affairs to.”

“Elphilia-sama... Thank you! Even though I am such a clumsy person, I will continue to do my best from now on!”

Kurone’s expression brightens.

Allen, who was watching the exchange between the two, also feels his heart lighten.

(How many years have they spent cultivating this relationship of trust...)

According to what they told him, when Elphilia went to an all-girls school, she brought Kurone to the school with her. It is evident that Elphilia values Kurone as more than just a servant.

“Well... I’ve kept you waiting, Allen.”

“Don’t worry about it. I understand you’ve made plans for the weekend?”

“Mhm, I’m going to see a concert. My best friend will be there.”

Elphilia’s best friend is well known in the nation.

The third princess, Marianne Virginia.

Because she is the same age as Elphilia, sixteen, they are famously close to each other.

Despite her fame however, Allen has never had the chance to see Marianne up close.

“And there will be a surprise for you too, Allen.”

“For me?”

Elphilia only smiles at Allen, who looks at her with a puzzled stare.

(Since it’s Elphilia-sama, I really don’t know what to expect.)

Allen begins to feel uneasy.

A few days later, Allen and the others are visiting the National Theater where the concert is to be held.

Not only Allen and Kurone, her bodyguards, but also Elphilia’s friend, Rebecca, and the apprentice maid, Marie, are accompanying the princess.

The National Theater is located close to the royal palace, and despite its majestic, cathedral-like appearance, it is widely used for everything from traditional operas to popular performances meant for the common people. A large stage is surrounded by seats arranged in a fan-shape. Private rooms with seats for guests of honor overlook the stage at an angle from above.

Allen’s party, of course, are ushered into one of these distinguished private rooms.

“Wah! The sofa is so soft!”

Marie is jumping up and down on the sofa.

She was originally a thief who broke into the Elphilia’s princess palace, but after Allen interrogated her she changed her ways and agreed to work as Elphilia’s maid. The ribbon tied on her tail has been her trademark ever since.

“Marie, you will stand here.”

As expected, she is admonished by Kurone, who is standing straight and immobile.

Rebecca, who had been watching Marie enviously, jolts as if she had been the one scolded.

Rebecca is a young wizard who maintains the warding magic over each princess palace, and she lives in Elphilia’s palace due to the princess recognizing her abilities. She looks like an elf with characteristic blond hair and pointy ears, but that is actually due to her elf-like makeup.

Rebecca pats a spot on the sofa next to her.

“Ma-Marie-san! This seat is empty!”

“Eh? Is that okay.....”

Marie looks at Kurone with worry.

She cannot seem to speak out against the wishes of Elphilia’s guest.

“You may sit, but don’t forget that you are here as a maid!”

Kurone clears her throat and agrees to Rebecca’s suggestion.

Even at a music concert, her soberness is not going to change.

“Allen.”

Elphilia calls out to him, and Allen turns around.

She, too, is patting the sofa next to where she is sitting.

“You’ll sit next to me, right?”

“Y-yes... Pardon me, then!”

As he sits down next to Elphilia, he can smell a faint, sweet fragrance wafting through the air.

Allen straightens his spine to resist his consciousness nearly being taken away by her.

(As usual, her charms have a way of sucking you in...)

He finds himself more stirred by this intimate closeness than when she shows her naked self to him with impunity.

Whether she realizes Allen’s feelings or not...

“Well, let’s enjoy ourselves.”

...Elphilia gives him a bewitching smile.

Perhaps it is the dimly lit theater that is making her look even more alluring than usual.

After that the concert began, and the program proceeded without any particular problems.

The performances so far had been decent but lackluster. Rebecca somehow had barely managed to stay attentive, but Marie had her head slumped over Rebecca’s shoulder, dozing off.

Allen, too, found himself fighting off drowsiness brought on by the comfortable rhythms.

Elphilia was the only one who was intently listening to the music.

Whether she was honestly interested or not, Allen was impressed by her commitment to fulfill her public role as a guest of honor.

Two hours passed, and finally, the main performer arrives.

The audience, which had been chatting away during the interludes between acts, suddenly quiets down.

A girl wearing a navy blue dress reminiscent of a nun's habit walks onto the stage.

Her translucent blue hair, downcast eyes, and pale skin that seems to be without flaw... The fragile and profound atmosphere given off by her entire body is breathtaking. The faint sparkle of the rosary she wears around her neck seems to symbolize her delicate life.

(Is that the third princess, Marianne Virginia...?)

Allen involuntarily stares at her, devouring her body with his eyes.

She is the opposite of Elphilia and Gabriella, who are brimming with life. To be honest, Allen, as a man, is filled with a desire to protect her. And yet, she does not seem to be intimidated in front of the large audience. Instead, the third princess displays the grace of royalty.

Marianne begins to sing a hymn in the center of the stage.

The song is a familiar one that even young children know.

However, the familiar hymn sung by Marianne's voice makes it even more pleasant to listen to. It is like putting your ear to the chest of someone dear to you and listening to the beat of their heart... Allen feels like he is surrounded by such kindness.

(It's like my heart is being purified.)

While Allen listens with rapt attention, next to him Elphilia is watching her best friend with a smile on her face like a holy saint.

Even Marie, who had been dozing off, is now absorbed in listening to the hymns.

When Marianne finishes singing, the audience erupts with wild applause. Some even stand up from their seats to shout their praises.

“Uuu, what a wonderful performance..... I can’t stop crying for some reason.....”

Rebecca is shedding tears of joy.

Marie asks “Do you need this?” while offering her a handkerchief.

Now that Marianne has finished singing, her forehead is covered with large beads of sweat. It seems that just singing one song is all she can do with her limited stamina.

For a moment, Marianne looks lightheaded and wobbles on her feet.

“Maria!?”

Elphilia leans forward over the banister of the private room.

Marianne nearly collapses, but is supported by a group of children who had arrived on stage to present her with a bouquet of flowers. When she takes the bouquet from the children, she smiles and waves to the audience.

As she waves, Marianne glances up at Elphilia.

Elphilia finally looks relieved and waves back.

(It was a chilling moment, but I guess it turned out okay...)

As Allen too is feeling relieved, his eyes suddenly meet with Marianne’s.

Suddenly, Marianne sticks out her tongue with a “Beeeh!” like a naughty child.

(Wh-what? Did she do that at me?)

While Allen is staring in bewilderment, Marianne makes her exit offstage.

“Well, there will be a reception afterwards.”

Elphilia bids them all up from the sofa.

Allen leaves from the private room with an unsettling feeling.

The reception is being held in a party hall attached to the theater.

The performers and guests of the concert are the main participants, enjoying food and drinks in a standing buffet style. The beautiful chandeliers shining overhead and the bright red carpet covering the entire hall look luxurious and must be very expensive.

(It's a bit awkward to suddenly attend such a lavish party after listening to a solemn hymn, but...)

This is also the job of a bodyguard, so Allen has no choice but to accept it.

“Hwaah~! What yummy looking meat~!”

Marie's eyes are glued to a slow-roasted cut of beef, her feline ears twitching and her tail wagging behind her.

“There's cake over here, too, Marie-san!”

Rebecca is carefully inspecting the many pastries in the dessert section.

She bends forward so much that she is dangerously close to offering a glimpse of her underwear below the miniskirt of her school uniform.

(It's good to see them both get to act like normal kids.)

As Allen watches them while smiling, Elphilia approaches them.

“Why don't you two go ahead and choose your dishes? Marie, you don't have to think about work today. I brought you here with that intention from

the beginning. You've been working hard every day on your studies, haven't you?"

"Yes! Thank you, Elphilia-sama!"

Marie straightens her posture in front of Elphilia.

"Marie-san, let's eat something delicious!"

"Alright, we'll eat until our bellies are full!"

Rebecca and Marie join hands and go to pick out dishes from the buffet.

Kurone lets out a small sigh.

"I hope I'm not being too strict with her..."

"Rebecca is with her, I'm sure she'll be fine."

As the two are talking with each other...

"Elphiliarr! I wonner if she's zrinkin'!"

Gabriella, her cheeks red, comes skipping through the hall with a glass of wine in her hand.

Behind her, a flustered Diana is chasing after her.

"Gabriella-sama! You're spilling the wine!"

"Whad does it matter if it spillz a liddle!? Yoo shud be derr-inking, too!! Thiss wine is the firzz one senn to me by a wine farmer I suppord. It'zz called Princezz Gabriella. I'm gonna make the wine biz'ness a major nashunal industree, startin' with the wine named affer mee!!"

"He-heeeh..... I'm not really a big drinker....."

Elphilia, unable to bear to see Diana in such a state, calls out to her older sister.

“Onee-sama, everyone is watching.”

“I am thiz counnry’z firs’ princezz. Whad kinda person can say aneee——Hwaah!?”

Gabriella, who had been happily drunk, instantly comes to her senses when she sees Allen.

While her cheeks had been red from the alcohol, suddenly her entire face turns bright red.

“Yo-you’re here too?”

Gabriella hides herself behind Diana.

Allen begins to reply, “Don’t mind me...” when...

“Eee——llle——♪”

...An enthused voice rings over the crowd in the party hall.

It is the third princess, Marianne, who is currently weaving her way through the crowd of partygoers.

An escort comes with her, but she stands with her back towards Allen and the others, blocking the sight of the attendees. Allen can tell from the figure of her back that the escort is a woman. She is about the same height as Marianne, so he is uncertain how reliably she would perform as a bodyguard.

(Her back looks familiar... There’s no way——)

An outlandish thought crosses Allen’s mind. He feels like he’s seen Marianne’s escort before. But his rational mind denies that she could be in a place like this. He is hesitant to say anything in front of the princesses however.

Unaware of the thoughts going through Allen’s mind...

“Maria!”

...Elphilia happily greets Marianne.

Marianne takes both of Elphilia's hands in her own.

“Did you enjoy my song, Elle?”

“Yes, I was completely smitten.”

“There were a lot of guests at the concert today, but... In my heart I was singing for you, Elle. I haven't been able to see you lately, either because I've been busy practicing or because I've been sick.”

“I've missed you too, Maria...”

The people around them are completely in awe of their deep friendship.

(Friendship between princesses... It's truly something precious.)

While Allen is genuinely appreciating the sight...

“...So, you're the bodyguard I've heard so much about?”

...Marianne shoots him a look of pure disgust.

Elphilia gleefully answers for him.

“Let me introduce you. This is Allen Brackish... my bodyguard.”

“It's a pleasure to meet you. I am Allen Brackish.”

Allen immediately kneels down in front of Marianne.

But she turns away from him with a pout.

“Kurone makes sense, because she has been your friend since you were little. But to appoint a man that you only met once as a child to be your bodyguard..... I just won't believe it!”

Marianne says this and then suddenly hugs Elphilia tightly.

“Kya!?”

Elphilia, startled, lets out an adorable squeal.

Marianne’s cheeks puff up as she glares at Allen.

“Do you mind, Bodyguard-san? Elle is my... Well, she’s my close friend, understand? I will never forgive you if you get too friendly with her.”

“Haha! I’ll keep that in mind!”

Surprisingly, Allen feels relieved.

Just like other girls of her age, even princesses are prone to jealousy.

“Aah!”

Marianne raises her voice again.

“Gabriella-onee-sama, you drank so much wine again!”

When Allen and the others turn around, they catch Gabriella tiptoeing away from the group.

The way Gabriella flinches when Marianne stops her makes it clear that Gabriella seems to have a hard time dealing with her younger sister.

“Ha, haa..... Marianne. That was quite a good hymn, wasn’t it?”

“Don’t change the subject!”

Marianne approaches her angrily.

“I don’t care how much you like it, too much alcohol is poison to your body!”

“Ooh..... When you first came to the princess section, you were so quiet and sweet, but now you’ve turned into a nag to your older sister.....”

“Gabriella-onee-sama was a prodigy when she was little, but she’s turned into a good-for-nothing before I knew it.....”

“Grrrr!”

Gabriella, feeling that she would be at a disadvantage continuing the argument, turns away from the group again.

“I’m so gl-glad to see you after all these years. I have some business to attend to, so if you’ll excuse me.”

Although she was just relaxing and drinking at a party, so she actually has nothing to do...

That is what everyone is thinking, but Allen has the good sense to not say anything.

“Diana, go get the carriage.”

“Marianne-sama, everybody, I’ll bid you all goodbye!”

Diana bows and hurries out of the room.

Just when Allen thinks the whole dispute has come to an end...

“Elphilia, I’m going to borrow Allen for a little. I may have had a little too much to drink.”

Gabriella tugs on Allen’s sleeve like a small child might do to a parent.

She glances sideways at him with a beet-red face.

“Huh, me? Uhh... Elphilia-sama, with your permission?”

“Yes, Allen. Please take good care of my big sister.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Marianne has been treating him like a nuisance, so he appreciates being able to get away from the party.

Allen decides to leave Elphilia’s safety to Kurone and accompany Gabriella.

As they leave the party hall, they find the hallway cold and deserted.

The silence in the corridor made it seem as if they were the only people in the world.

“Shall we head out then?”

When Allen is about to start walking, Gabriella grabs hold of his hand gently.

“Gabriella-sama?”

When Allen turns around, she quickly pulls her hand away.

She blinks repeatedly with her long eyelashes.

“I-I’m a little drunk, so... y-you better take care of me!”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Allen does as he is told and takes Gabriella’s right hand in his own. Her slender fingertips are painted with a mature, red nail polish.

However, when he squeezes her hand, she trembles like a frightened child.

“Did I grab it too tight?”

“It-It’s okay.....”

Allen guides Gabriella by the hand and escorts her down the hallway.

Then, after a short period of silence, Gabriella suddenly starts talking.

“You saved my life. You helped me make peace with Elphilia. I don’t know what would have happened if you hadn’t interrogated me.....”

“I was just doing my job.”

“It don’t just mean with Elphilia. I also mean with my love story.....”

Gabriella had written her own story based on the “Princess’s Secret” series of romance novels, which are popular among young women. In contrast to the original novel, in which a princess modeled after Elphilia falls in love with her bodyguard, Gabriella’s novel stars a princess modeled after herself.

“The first time I read my novel out loud, it was embarrassing..... but thanks to that, I realized how naive I was as a writer. I was missing out on the best way to express myself because I let my shame get in the way. Now that I understand that, I’m really enjoying writing.”

Allen would regularly be summoned by Gabriella to critique her writing, which she would read aloud for him.

Allen himself is an avid reader, so he is always glad to help her with her creative process, but the sight of Gabriella sexily reading a love scene stirred certain male instincts in him, and it was troubling to see her acting that way in private.

Still, Gabriella herself had made it clear that she could not ask anyone else to do it. Above all, it was a request from Elphilia’s beloved older sister. Allen had no reason to refuse.

The two of them leave the theater through the guest entrance.

There are no peeping eyes around, only the carriage Diana had called for them was parked nearby.

“Gabriella-sama, thank you for waiting!”

Gabriella quickly pulls her hand away when she sees Diana running up to her.

She stares at the masculine hand she had just been holding.

“Are you sure that’s everything?”

Allen asks, and Gabriella turns around in surprise.

She then pouts and declares...

“E, Escort ..... I appreciate it! Just to clarify, I won’t let just any guy hold my hand! I trust you because you are Elphilia’s bodyguard. So do your best not to betray my trust!”

“Haha! I certainly will!”

Allen bows earnestly.

When Allen looks up, Gabriella is frozen in the same pose she was in before.

No, if he looks closely, he can see that she is trembling slightly.

“Then... then... That will be all!”

Leaving behind a slightly awkward atmosphere, Gabriella gets into the carriage.

She can be seen covering her bright red face with her palms, peeking out of the window of the box carriage.

(That girl is pretty drunk.....)

Allen also enjoys drinking, so it is not hard to understand how Gabriella feels right now.

Then, just as he is about to head back to Elphilia...

“Allen-sama!”

...Kurone comes running from the doorway of the theater.

It seems that she had come all the way from the party hall to call him.

“Elphilia-sama and Marianne-sama have moved to another room.  
Marianne-sama wants to tell us all about the old days with Elphilia-sama...  
I told Marie and Rebecca they are free to go where they please for a while.”

“Okay, let’s go right away.”

Apparently Marianne’s jealousy hasn’t stopped yet.

Allen heads off with Kurone.

Elphilia and the others had moved to a private room reserved for guests.

“Everyone, Allen-sama has arrived.”

“Pardon me.”

Allen enters the private room, while Kurone remains in the hallway to keep watch.

The private room has a plush sofa and low table, and there are cupboards lined with bottles of fine liquor and jars of tea leaves. It is a cozy and comfortable place, away from the noise of the party hall, as if they had returned to the familiar princess palace.

The two princesses are sitting side by side on the sofa.

“You’re here, Bodyguard-san!”

Marianne looks at Allen and then, to show off, she intertwines her arm with Elphilia’s.

Elphilia gives an “Oh dear♥” but doesn’t seem to be troubled by it.

“Fufufu… From now on, I’m going to tell you just how close we are. You’re going to be so jealous of me, but you’ll just have to bite your tongue and listen to the end, won’t you?”

“Yes, I’ll try to bear it——”

At that moment, his eyes met those of the bodyguard behind Marianne.

He had dismissed the possibility in his mind, but now that he is facing her head-on, he has no choice but to accept the truth.

“Rosa…… It really is you.”

Seeing Allen’s reaction, Marianne giggles and says, “Finally…”

The bodyguard called Rosa smiles, her eyes narrowing.

“It’s been a long time, Allen-onii-sama.”



Her straight-nosed face and shiny, dark hair certainly bear a resemblance to Allen. However, she is as short as Marianne, and her petite body wrapped in a guard uniform is so different that it is hard to believe that they are blood relatives.

Her expression is adult-like. But in addition to the two rapiers hanging from her waste, she is wearing a childish, red headband. If Allen remembers correctly, it was a birthday present he gave to her a long time ago.

Rosa is sixteen now. It had been a year since they had last seen each other while visiting their family home. That was before Allen's legs were injured during a mission for the Royal Order and he had to stay in a convalescent home for a time. Rosa had sent a letter saying that she would take care of him. Allen, being considerate of her life as a student, wrote back a letter of refusal...

“I’m sorry, Allen.”

Elphilia says remorsefully.

“Marianne asked me to keep it a secret. I’m afraid my mischievous temper got the better of me too.”

“No, please don’t worry about it Elphilia-sama...”

“Would you introduce me to your sister?”

“Yes, of course.”

Despite his words, Allen is unable to hide his surprise.

Honestly, more than being happy to see his family member again, he was having trouble understanding how.

“This is Rosa Brackish... She is my younger sister, who turned sixteen this year. She’s been attending a girls’ boarding school for the last three years, and was even elected class president two years in a row——”

“I left school to pursue my brother.”

Rosa says this as if it is a matter of course.

When Allen looks at her, she tilts her head as if to say, “Is there a problem?”

“You quit school.....”

“Instead, I passed the entrance test for the Royal Order of Knights.”

“Huh?”

Forgetting that he is in front of the princesses, Allen lets his mouth hang open.

Rosa had always imitated Allen. Swordsmanship, archery, horseback riding... She had developed above average skill in all of these, but Allen never considered that she would be able to join the Royal Order. Not to mention, Rosa's build is as short and slender as the frail Marianne's.

“But, before I knew it my brother had left the Royal Knights...”

“And so! That is why Maria-chan here hired her as my bodyguard!”

Marianne puffs out her chest confidently.

“She was so worried about her beloved big brother that she quit school and ultimately became a knight... Isn't she a very admirable girl! She's the same age as me, so I just couldn't help but root for her.”

“Have you told father and mother?”

“They were very pleased that both their children could both become bodyguards together.”

Their parents knew since Rosa first began imitating Allen that she would not listen once she had set her mind on something. Besides, since she had

successfully established herself as the bodyguard of a princess, their father and mother must not have been able to come up with a strong objection.

“In any case, let me congratulate you. Rosa, you must have worked hard to become a royal bodyguard.”

“Thank you, big brother. That’s all I wanted to hear.....”

Rosa smiles with her eyes closed, entranced.

Elphilia also encourages her as she is immersed in her emotions.

“I’ll trust you to take care of my dearest and best friend, Rosa-chan.”

“Of course, Elphilia-sama.”

It is a strange sight for Allen to see, his mistress and his little sister smiling at each other.

(I suppose there’s no way around it if it’s come this far.....)

Allen finally makes up his mind to accept it.

Now that Rosa’s introductions are finished...

“Hmm... By the way, Elle’s choice of herbal tea is simply divine!”

...Marianne speaks with an exaggerated gesture, lifting up her cup and savoring the aroma of the tea.

It seems she is finally ready to begin her boasting about her good friendship with Elphilia.

“I still drink that herbal tea blend that Elle came up with for me quite often.”

“Fufu, then it was worth the effort.”

Allen knows that Elphilia personally picks wild plants to create her own remedies for injuries and beauty treatments. Her knowledge of medicine and pharmacology is at the level of an expert. But he had never heard that she even creates her own tea blends.

“We met when... I think we must have been twelve years old at the time.”

Allen met Elphilia six years ago... That is, when she was only ten years old. Two years later, she had outgrown the naughty behavior of her childhood and was on her way to being well-loved by the whole kingdom. Allen had heard that the year after that, Elphilia started attending a girls' school together with Kurone.

(Come to think of it, I haven't heard much about what Marianne-sama was like when she was a little girl...)

Allen is curious and asks a question.

“Isn't it customary for princesses to live in the princess palaces from birth?”

“Fufuun... Maria-chan here was the only one who was special!”

Marianne begins to talk proudly about herself in the third person.

“You see, Maria-chan was born with a weak body and when she was little, she was always running a fever. The Elf Village's hospital... In other words, she was sent to a hospital where she was cured with a secret medicine. Thanks to that, she recovered to the point where her body is only a little weak!”

“I see...”

It must have been difficult for her to fight her childhood illness.

Regardless, Marianne tells the story as if it were a heroic saga.

(She has a strong heart... maybe even as strong as Elphilia-sama's.)

While Allen is awestruck, Marianne continues to tell her story with a smug face.

“But the first time she visited the princess palace when she turned twelve, it felt somehow too big for her... She was separated from the elves who had been taking care of her until then... It was really lonely. People were still concerned about her health, so she couldn’t even go to school... But Elle was... She became Maria-chan’s first friend!”

“I was happy too.”

Elphilia nods at Marianne’s story.

“I was happy to have a friend my age in the princess section... I didn’t have any royal friends before then...”

“Ehehe, that’s right isn’t it?”

Marianne’s cheeks are blushing with embarrassment. Due to her pale complexion, the redness of her cheeks is even more noticeable.

“Elle knew that I was frail, so she made me herbal tea and gave it to me as a gift... It was so tasty and nutritious too!”

“It was a good learning experience for me as well.”

Elphilia recalls those days fondly.

“Back then, I was so absorbed in my studies... I was in a hurry to become a respectable person, to make up for all the mischief I had done as a child. But then I met Marianne, and I wanted to do my best for her from the bottom of my heart. It was thanks to Marianne that I began studying for the sake of helping people.”

Marianne smiles at Elphilia and presses her hand to her chest with a gasp.

“Do you understand, Bodyguard-san!? The preciousness of my Elle! She amazing! So... so good!”

“I’d have to agree.”

It is something he has the opportunity to experience every day.

“Bodyguard-san, I have heard that you are the one responsible for Elle turning her life around.”

Marianne folds her arms, emphasizing her chest.

“But from then on... It was Maria-chan here who was by her side, you know! We’ve even taken baths together and slept in the same bed! Please keep that in mind!”

“Yes, I will.”

As he expected, her jealous tantrums are really adorable. Marianne makes an unsatisfied face in response to Allen readily accepting her demand.

For Allen’s part, he has no intention of interfering with the beautiful friendship of the two girls.

“Speaking of sleepovers... Back then, we really did sleep together every day.”

...Elphilia recalls some dear memories...

“Marianne used to be so afraid of ghosts——”

“Gh-ghosts are the one thing I can’t handle!”

{TL: Elphilia uses the word “yurei”, the spirits of dead people, while Marianne responds with the word “obake”, a more general term for paranormal beings}

Marianne’s face turns blue and she clutches the rosary hanging around her neck.

“At the hospital in the Elf Village, I heard so many ghost stories that I couldn’t bear it... And it’s wasn’t just the stories... I actually saw a ghost

with my own eyes! I'm not lying! A cold, translucent form ran right through my body and... and... You don't believe me, do you!?"

Marianne jumps up from the couch in her excitement...

...And just as soon, her body loses its balance and begins to fall.

"Look out!"

Allen springs to his feet and catches Marianne's limp body.

Rosa also reacted, but Allen was quicker.

Although it is hard to tell through her loose-fitting habit, Marianne's body feels worryingly light. Her forehead and the nape of her neck are also covered in perspiration, alerting Allen that she must have been feeling fatigued, despite her energetic behavior.

"Ohh....."

Marianne collapses onto Allen's chest.

Her breasts, squeezed tightly together by her dress, are voluptuous and soft, contrary to what one might expect from the rest of her figure. The provocative lines of her collarbone and cleavage can just be made out through the fabric of the dress.

Moist eyes below long eyelashes look up at Allen as if pleading for help.

Despite her pure and ephemeral impression, the faint scent from her hair is sweet and feminine. Mixed with a hint of sweat, it is enough to make Allen's heart throb with excitement.

(The women of the Virginia royal family, they're all far too attractive...)

Allen carefully seats Marianne down on the sofa.

Elphilia, who had stood up reflexively, sits back down and places a hand to her chest in relief.

“Thank you, Allen. Please don’t push yourself too hard, Maria.”

“Marianne-sama, are you feeling okay?”

Rosa asks timidly.

She is feeling discouraged about not being able to reach her mistress first.

“Yes, I’m all right. I just got a little dizzy. Your brother seems to be a capable bodyguard after all. Thanks to what just happened, I was finally able to make up my mind.”

Marianne, color returning to her face, points at Allen with a serious expression.

“Bodyguard-san… Marry Maria-chan!!”

The atmosphere in the room changes in an instant.

Allen is left literally speechless, his mouth hanging open for the second time tonight.

(Is she being serious?)

Rosa is quietly watching the situation, as if she knew what was going to happen.

“M-Maria? Was that… a j-joke?”

Elphilia is even more flustered than Allen. She is uncharacteristically surprised, her eyes wide.

“Of course not, Elle. This is necessary for the sake of fulfilling my objective. I have only one goal… Elle, it is to make you belong only to Maria-chan. But you seem to be obsessed with this male Bodyguard-san. That’s quite troublesome.”

“But, then why marry him…?”

“It’s simple! Once you get married, the husband will be totally under the wife’s thumb! So Maria-chan here will use her bride power to tame Bodyguard-san. Then there will be no one left between us. Mhm, I think it’s a perfect plan!”

{TL: “under the wife’s thumb” is literally “under the wife’s butt” in the original text, which is a real Japanese idiom meaning the same thing.}

Marianne nods in apparent agreement with her own self-praise.

Rosa says, “What a genius idea!”, but her face makes the sarcasm of her words obvious.

Elphilia is unsure how to reply, and offers only dead silence.

(I guess that’s a reasonable reaction when your best friend tells you something like this.....)

Allen understands Elphilia’s complicated feelings.

“You must be overjoyed to be able to marry Maria-chan here, right Bodyguard-san? Even though it’s just a marriage on paper, I’ll still be a good wife. I’ll even clean your ears after your bath!”

“No, that’s not really the problem...”

“You mean cleaning your ears isn’t enough? Bodyguard-san, you are still a male after all! Alright then, let’s cut straight to cuddling. Maria-chan here will sleep next to you every night while patting your back and singing you lullabies. Ah... But only on nights that I’m not sleeping over at Elle’s place.”

Reasoning with her seems to be useless...

Marianne’s eyes are shining so brilliantly that Allen gives up on trying to convince her at this point.

While Allen and Elphilia are both stuck feeling helpless...

“Marianne-sama, I don’t think it’s fair of you to ask for a decision right away.”

...Rosa, who had been watching the conversation, offers them a helping hand.

“Marianne-sama looks tired, why don’t you take the rest of the day off?”

“...Maybe that’s a good idea.”

Marianne drinks the rest of the now cold tea.

“From now on, I will devote my time to convincing you of Maria-chan’s charms. I don’t mind if you seriously fall in love with me, Bodyguard-san. Also, I recommend that Elle uses this time to look for a replacement bodyguard.”

In the end, Marianne leaves the room in a good mood.

Rosa glances at Allen as she heads for the door.

“See you soon, big brother.”

Marianne and Rosa leave the room, leaving Allen and Elphilia alone.

The strange tension finally subsides.

“I’m afraid this has become quite troublesome, Elphilia-sama.”

“Yes... I never thought I would hear something like that from her. Maria has always been prone to jealousy, but she’s never acted so outrageously before. Seeing you as a rival must have made her go out of control.”

“Couldn’t you talk her out of it, Elphilia-sama?”

Elphilia chokes up at Allen’s request.

(I suppose she wouldn’t be able to...)

If Elphilia says anything, Marianne might believe that she is prioritizing Allen over their long-lasting friendship. At least in Allen's view, the two of them don't seem like the type of people who are ready to fight and confront each other with their true feelings.

(If that's the case, then the best I can do is to just ignore whatever appeals Marianne-sama comes up with. Though I have no idea how long it will take for Marianne-sama to give up...)

Allen lets out a sigh as he imagines the trouble ahead.

Just then, Kurone opens the door and enters from the hallway.

"Elphilia-sama, shall I call for the carriage? Marie and Rebecca have returned and are waiting outside."

"Yes, please do. We'll be done shortly."

"Certainly."

The door to the room closes shut again.

Elphilia shows Allen a wry smile.

"Today must have been a shock for you, Allen."

"Yes... I was really surprised both by Marianne-sama, and by Rosa. But please don't worry. I have no intention of leaving Elphilia-sama's side. Even when Marianne-sama asked me to marry her, I never changed my mind about that."

"Of course I believe you, Allen. But....."

Elphilia hesitates for a long moment.

The silence between them is only broken when Kurone returns.

"Elphilia-sama, the carriage is ready!"

Kurone opens the door to the room and waits for them.

“Shall we leave, then?”

Allen is about to walk away when he is suddenly stopped by a tug on his uniform.

He turns around to see Elphilia holding onto his sleeve.

Her face is turned away from Allen to hide her slightly flushed cheeks.

“I-I’m sorry... I think the smell of liquor in the party hall has made me feel a little woozy. Would you mind holding my hand while we walk to the carriage?”

“Yes, of course.”

Allen gently takes Elphilia’s hand.

Slender fingers and smooth skin remind him that the owner of this hand is a delicate girl. If he pulls too forcibly, it would be easy to accidentally hurt her. The fact that she is trembling a little like a small animal makes her seem even more vulnerable.

(I swear to protect these hands, even if it costs me my life!)

Allen silently reaffirms his vow.

# Chapter 9 - Private Lessons and their Rewards

Marianne Virginia, the third princess and Elphilia's best friend.

Rosa Brackish, a novice bodyguard and Allen's little sister.

After the concert, Allen has to worry about these two troublesome girls.

Marianne, in order to keep her best friend to herself, wants to make Allen her groom to keep him away from Elphilia. It is a terribly reckless move, but it would be easy for Marianne, a royal princess, to bind herself to a husband of common status.

What is even stranger is Rosa working for Marianne as her bodyguard. Marianne seems to be impressed by Rosa's resolve, but Allen doubts that is the only reason Marianne is keeping her around.

It is baffling to him that Rosa is still trying to follow in his footsteps, yet is fine with Marianne's attempts to marry and tame her "beloved big brother".

(Whatever the case, everything depends on what exactly Marianne-sama is planning.....)

Since she declared that she was going to "convince him of her charms", she will definitely make some kind of move in the near future.

That move came a few days after the concert...

"Private lessons... is it?"

That day, Allen had been summoned to Elphilia's room.

As usual, Elphilia is enjoying tea at the small table in the center of the room.

Kurone is waiting quietly behind her.

“Yes, I just received word from Maria.”

Elphilia is holding a beautiful piece of stationery in her hand. The envelope has been cut open, but Allen can see it bears a wax seal with the design of a crucifix – the personal emblem of the third princess Marianne Virginia.

“It’s about your little sister... Rosa-san has passed the test to join the Royal Order, but she has yet to receive any proper training as a knight. Maria wants you to give her private lessons while I’m away from the princess palace on official business.”

“I see, so that’s what this is about...”

The reason why Marianne chose Rosa as her bodyguard finally makes sense.

(So she is planning to use Rosa as an excuse to be able to summon me whenever she wants.)

Unfortunately, Allen can’t help but feel uneasy about letting a novice who just passed the knight’s entrance test to serve as the princess’s bodyguard.

Even though he knows this is a trap, as a bodyguard and former knight himself, Allen can’t afford not to go.

“I have some business to attend to, so will you head to Marianne’s princess palace as soon as possible?”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Marianne will doubtlessly use this opportunity to try to seduce him, but he already decided not to succumb to any means she might use to tempt him. Elphilia did not refuse because of how much she trusts him. Besides, she can’t just refuse her best friend’s request...

“Kurone. Please look after Elphilia-sama while she’s away.”

“Yes. Leave it to me.”

“Then, if you’ll excuse me.”

Allen turns from them and begins to leave. He is nearly out the door when...

“Allen, just one thing...”

...Elphilia calls out to him from behind.

When he looks back, he sees that she has a slight blush on her cheeks.

“Make sure you... You will come back to me, right?”

“Yes, I will!”

Is it possible that Elphilia herself is jealous?

Seeing the princess behaving in a girlish manner fitting for her age, Allen feels a little relieved.

Allen was summoned to the garden in Marianne’s princess palace.

The garden is surrounded by hedges reaching taller than Allen’s head and forming a twisting maze. If there wasn’t a maid leading the way he would definitely be lost.

(Is such an elaborate design some hobby of Marianne-sama?)

As he proceeds through the hedge maze, he hears the sound of music played on a violin coming from the center of the maze.

When the center comes into view, he sees a grand trellis with beautiful, pale purple wisteria flowers hanging down from it.

Right under the wisteria trellis is a square tea table, and Marianne is standing next to it, elegantly playing a violin. The hymn she had sung at the concert was wonderful, but her skill with the violin is similarly at the level of a professional.

Behind Marianne is Rosa, who is listening to the performance with a peaceful expression on her face.

When the violin performance ends, Allen can't help but applaud.

"Fufuu... What did you think of Maria-chan's performance? Were you enchanted by it?"

"Yes, it was wonderful."

"Maria-chan here shouldn't be underestimated as a girl who can only sing hymns. Beyond instruments, including the violin and piano, I am also well versed in many types of music including the latest songs that have been popular in the capital!"

Rosa notices Marianne is sweating as she brags about herself, and wipes her forehead with a handkerchief.

"... Well, that will do for the reception."

Taking a seat at the tea table, Marianne takes a sip of her tea. It has the same aroma as the tea she was drinking after the concert.

"You may take a seat as well, Bodyguard-san."

"Yes, pardon me."

Marianne urges Allen to sit down at last.

She rings a bell and the maids emerge from the hedge maze, prepared with a cup of tea for Allen, and a tea stand loaded with pastries. As in Elphilia's princess palace, the maids truly do a remarkable job.

"I understand that you want me to give Rosa private lessons..."

Allen quickly broaches the subject that brought him here.

“Was the reason you made my sister your bodyguard so that you could summon me like this?”

“That’s right. From now on, whenever Elle leaves on official business, you will be summoned by Maria-chan in this way. Instead of a commuting wife, you’ll be a commuting husband… doesn’t it feel something like that?”

{TL: Commuting wife (kayoizuma) is a Japanese term for when a husband and wife live apart, so the wife regularly travels to see the husband}

Marianne laughs with a snort.

She seems pleased with how things are proceeding according to her plan.

“Well, I recommend you give up on this as soon as possible. I am honored to work for Elphilia-sama. If Marianne-sama does manage to take me away, it would make your best friend very sad.”

“That’s not your concern, Bodyguard-san. You’re just a nuisance, and once you’re gone we can go back to the way we were before. Protecting the lovey-dovey relationship between me and Elle… That’s all Maria-chan wants!”

Allen has no intention of getting between their “lovey-dovey relationship”, but it seems that Marianne has acknowledged him as a rival anyway. It would be cute if he could think of it as the kind of misunderstanding typical for a girl of her age, but...

“I understand what you’re thinking, Marianne-sama. But what I don’t understand is Rosa.”

Rosa, suddenly brought up in the conversation, flutters her long eyelashes. Then she tilts her head to the side dramatically and smiles.

“What is it you don’t understand, Allen-onii-sama?”

“I’ll ask you then... Rosa, why are you cooperating with Marianne-sama? You came so far, pursing me all the way to the capital. I would have thought you’d behave just like when you were a little girl——whining that you didn’t want your big brother to marry someone else.”

Whenever Allen tried to be friendly with other girls, the young Rosa would become so jealous that she would have an angry tantrum. Even after Rosa was old enough to go to school, she would make a point of asking Allen if he had gotten a girlfriend whenever they both returned home.

“Fufu... isn’t that cute? Is it possible that your childhood dream was to be your brother’s wife when you grew up?”

Marianne teases her with an innocent smile.

Then Rosa says with a straight face...

“My dream is still to marry my big brother.”

Marianne’s hand trembles, frozen halfway through lifting her teacup to her lips.

She is trying to marry a man she doesn’t like in order to monopolize her best friend... Even for such an eccentric girl, the existence of a girl her same age that is seriously thinking of marrying her blood-related brother seems to be somewhere beyond the realm of her comprehension.

“Err... that..... Are you serious?”

Marianne asks fearfully.

“I’m serious.”

Allen gives a small nod.

Rosa smiles enchantedly as she begins to tell a story.

“This was something that happened about six years ago——”

Ever since Rosa can remember, Allen had been like a prince to her.

After all, he was her older brother by six years. When Rosa was ten years old and Allen was sixteen years old he had already joined the Royal Order. He had already grown up to be a splendid man, with a physique that rivaled that of older adults and a composed and calm temperament.

Rosa was fascinated not only by Allen's dedication to swordsmanship and horseback riding, but also by her brother's intellect. Allen loved reading and the tales and histories that he shared with Rosa were an invitation into a world she had never known herself and deepened her affection for him.

As the eldest son of a time-honored family of knights with a promising future in either the military or civil service, in addition to his good-looking face, there was no way that the women around him would leave him alone. Allen was often confessed to by women both older and younger than him.

When that happened, Rosa was always in a bad mood and would try to get Allen's attention by lying to him or playing tricks on him. She would make him help look for lost items that she had actually hidden herself, or pretend to be sick and make him take care of her... All of these were but the innocent acts of a child however. And Rosa, who was very young, did not even realize yet that the emotion she was experiencing was jealousy.

(Ever since I was born, Allen-sama has been my only brother... I love you more than anything in the world, so why do I have to be so mean to you? What do I want from you, big brother?)

What were Rosa's own feelings...

The first time she realized what she really wanted in her heart was when Allen came back home after a long absence to celebrate Rosa's tenth birthday. The red headband she received from him as a birthday present is still Rosa's favorite.

The day before Allen returned to the capital, something Rosa never expected happened. A maid, who had worked for the Brackish family since

before Rosa could remember, summoned Allen to a quiet spot behind the house with no one else around, and boldly asked him to marry her.

The maid, who was then sixteen years old like Allen, was to be married soon to a man her parents chose for her. The maid had been in love with Allen for a long time, but because of the difference in status between a knight and a commoner, it would be improper for them to get married, or even to have a relationship. However, when she learned she would be forced to marry a man twelve years older than her, and that she had never met, she finally decided to confess her love to Allen, knowing that it was impossible.

Allen refused the maid's proposal, saying that he had no intention of getting married or dating a woman at the time so that he could instead concentrate on his career as a knight. The maid thanked Allen for hearing her confession and the last thing she said before she left Allen was, "Allen-sama is the only one I'll love for the rest of my life".

Rosa had been watching the entire scene from behind a tree.

Since she had always been a good maid, when she had asked Rosa to deliver her love letter to Allen, Rosa had agreed.

(Even if Allen-onii-sama refuses her, she will surely fall in love with another man sooner or later.)

Contrary to Rosa's expectation, the maid's words sounded more heartfelt than ever.

(I've never seen such a life-altering confession before.....)

Rosa hid herself in the shade of the tree and held her heaving little chest.

(That maid has been devoted to my brother and me since we were little. She is really kind and would make a good marriage partner for Allen-onii-sama. If that maid married my brother, I would surely be happy for them. But then, I would be left behind...)

Rosa's young body suddenly became feverish as she thought about this.

She wants to see her brother and the maid both be happy. But there is another part of her that just can't stand it. Her tangled mess of good and bad emotions troubled Rosa to the point that her entire body began to sweat.

If one thing was certain, it is that the maid's confession had awoken a sense of crisis in Rosa. From then on, a woman worthy of marrying her brother could come into his life at any time... Rosa finally became aware of this reality.

(I want to tell Allen-onii-sama how I honestly feel!)

Rosa jumped out from behind the tree and called out to her brother as loud as she could.

“Allen-onii-sama!”

“...Rosa?”

Allen stood there in the sunlight filtering through the trees looking forlorn.

Even though he had no choice but to let down the girl who liked him... The guilt that her clumsy older brother carries is obvious.

“Big brother, I think you were sincere in your response.”

“Rosa is so kind.”

Allen squatted on the ground and patted Rosa on the head.

Normally it was a treat to be patted on the head by her brother, but that day it instead felt as if she was being treated like a child. Sixteen years old compared to ten year old... the height difference between an adult and a child made her realize the enormous distance between herself and her brother.

“I'm sorry, big brother. I... I just can't hold it in.”

“That’s... What do you mean?”

“I was worried when I heard her confess to you just now. I wondered what would happen to me if my brother married a beautiful woman... But the answer is simple. I just have to do the same thing to my big brother.”

Rosa looked straight at Allen, who met her gaze.

Then, she put into words the honest feelings she had been keeping inside her heart for so long.

“Big brother... Please make me your wife.”

A once-in-a-lifetime confession.

In truth, she had said this many times in her childhood, but this was the first time she had been this serious.

And yet Allen’s expression relaxed as if he had heard her tell a joke.

“When Rosa grows up, if she doesn’t find someone else she likes, then I’ll marry her.”

It was clear that her brother’s words were only meant to tease her.

“I’m already grown up!!”

This hurt Rosa’s feelings.

(I have to make sure my brother understands!)

Rosa determinedly pulled up the blouse she was wearing along with her undergarment.

What was revealed underneath was a small bust that was just beginning to grow. The mounds were so small that if you didn’t strain your eyes you wouldn’t be able to tell they were there, and instead all you would see were a pair of faintly pink-tinted buds at the top of the smooth plain of her chest.

“Rosa, what are you——”

“If I do this, you’ll understand!!”

Grabbing her dumbfounded brother’s right hand, Rosa forced it against her breast.

The momentum of his touch caused a strange sensation in her sensitive, still-growing chest.

“Ahn♥”

Rosa’s mouth leaked a sweet, intoxicated sound.

“Ku♥ …nmm♥ Haa♥”

Her beloved big brother was touching her where no one else was allowed to. All the times when he patted her head or hugged her were nothing compared to that feeling... The pleasure was so strong that she felt guilty for feeling it, and her nether regions were throbbing violently.

(Allen-onii-sama’s hand... It’s large... a little rough... and so warm♥)

It was hard for her to believe that the sensation she was experiencing was only from his hand, and she began to wonder if she was being teased directly on the most sensitive parts of her body. Rosa felt as if she would be dragged down into a sea of pleasure if she didn’t brace herself, so she held her inner thighs tightly closed under her skirt.



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“I’m already... an adult♥ Mom hasn’t bought me a bra yet, but...♥ my boobs are getting bigger♥ and I’m sure in time I’ll be able to properly breastfeed our baby♥”

“Calm down, Rosa.”

Allen easily shook off her grasp, leaving Rosa’s chest slightly sweaty where his hand had been. At the tip of the modest pink buds, tiny droplets of sweat glistened like jewels.

Allen sighed and adjusted Rosa’s pulled-up blouse.

“I’m sorry I treated you like a child and tried to brush off your earnest feelings. I apologize for that... but Rosa, you know that blood relatives can’t marry each other, don’t you?”

“Wh-Who decided that rule?”

“It’s been a natural rule since ancient times. If Rosa is an adult, you understand the disadvantages of such an arrangement, right?”

Rosa couldn’t argue back when he used her of her claims to be an adult against her.

(Even I was properly taught that by mom... But it’s unfair that just because I didn’t like you treating me like a child, you now try to convince me by treating me like an adult. I will never accept that!)

Rosa looked up at Allen as he stood up.

Even considering he is six years older than her, he was surprisingly tall, and his body was so brawny that he could easily have been mistaken for her father. You could certainly call him an adult. On the other hand, Rosa was short, her breasts not yet developed, and she was still in school. She was, for all intents and purposes, a child.

Once she realized this, trying to get her brother to treat her like an adult felt hopeless.

“I will marry my big brother anyway!”

All Rosa had left was stubbornness.

“I’ll do whatever it takes to become your wife——!!”

With a last desperate outcry, Rosa ran away from Allen.

It was a secret known only to her that while running away at full speed, her breasts rubbed sensitively against her undergarment, and she promptly asked her mother to buy her a bra – as well as some panties with a more adult design. Although, her breasts have not grown much since then.....

“——And that’s why my dream is still to be Allen-onii-sama’s wife.”

Rosa finally finishes telling her story.

Allen shakes his head with a “Good grief...”

“Rosa has been like this since she was a little girl. Maybe I didn’t scold her well enough, but she grew up to be a spoiled brat who can’t stay away from her older brother...”

“Ha, haa.....”

Marianne is blinking her eyes and looking uncomfortable.

“That didn’t seem like a story about learning to be away from your older brother and stop being a spoiled brat..... And putting aside how you felt as a little girl, wanting to marry your brother at the age of sixteen is——”

“...Marianne-sama.”

Rosa reaches out her hand toward Marianne. She cups her fingers under Marianne’s chin and turns her gaze toward her own with a jerk.

Being Allen's younger sister, Rosa's serious face makes a powerful impression.

But then Rosa's face breaks into a smile and she asks...

"Is there a problem?"

"Uuu..."

Marianne, who had maintained a straight face up until now, flinches.

"Ufufu, I understand, of course I do."

Rosa removes her fingers from Marianne's chin.

"Marrying my brother is not something the law will accept, I understand that... Therefore, I am no longer concerned with the formality of marriage. As long as I can be with my brother, it can be as his wife, sister, maid... I don't care if I have to be his pet dog."

"We-well... It's a family matter, so I shouldn't have interfered."

"Did I scare you?"

"I-I'm not s-scared... It's just that I got a little bit nervous when I saw my bodyguard's intense expression. I'm not scared, really!"

Marianne coughs to clear her throat.

"Anyway, I'll need someone to take care of you after I tame you, Bodyguard-san. Meeting Rosa was a good opportunity for me. Our goals are the same. We are business partners. Do you understand why Rosa is cooperating with me now?"

"I see. So that's what happened."

Marianne wants to keep Allen away from Elphilia.

Rosa wants to be with Allen in any way she can.

Despite the odd ways they are going about it, their interests are perfectly aligned.

(This might be more trouble than I thought...)

Allen held out some hope that Rosa would help him to talk Marianne out of her plan. However, with Rosa and Marianne collaborating with each other, it would be more difficult than he had imagined.

“I guess you were counting on your sister’s help, but it’s unfortunate.”

Marianne says as if she can see through Allen’s thoughts.

She cuts a fruit-covered tart into bite-sized pieces and offers him one with a dessert fork. The tenderness in her smile is like that of a mother breastfeeding her baby.

“To make up for it, Maria-chan here will feed you. Say ‘ahh~n♥’ for me.”

As she leans forward over the table, the loose cloth of her habit-like dress falls and offers a generous view of her cleavage. Such magnificent contours can only be produced by a person with an exceptionally beautiful bust.

Allen, who is sitting directly in front of her, can even see the beads of sweat sliding down the inner valley of her breasts.

From Marianne’s grin, it is obvious that she is showing them off to him on purpose.

(Where did she learn this kind of tactic...)

Unaware of Allen’s astonishment, Marianne continues her naive attempt at seduction.

“To be the person Maria-chan offers her ‘first ahh~n♥’ to, Bodyguard-san is the luckiest person in the world. Of course, once we get married, I’ll do it for you every day, okay? If you beg me from the bottom of your heart, that is.”

Marianne smiles mischievously.

(My first priority should be to avoid putting Marianne-sama in a bad mood, in which case I should accept her ‘first ahh~n♥’... But, no, I can’t do something like that in front of my sister! Elphilia-sama, I don’t know if your orders extend this far——)

As Allen ponders what his decision should be and Marianne continues to push the fork at his mouth...

“Ufufu... I’ll humbly accept then♪”

...Rosa leans over from the side of the table and eats the bite of the fruit tart.

Allen and Marianne are stunned.

“Ro-Rosa, what are you doing!?”

“Fufu... I’m terribly sorry, Marianne-sama.”

Rosa pokes Marianne’s cheek with her index finger.

“But even though we’ve only known each other for a short time, I adore you too, Marianne-sama. It’s thanks to Marianne-sama that I have been reunited with my brother like this... And yet, I’m so jealous that you only offered Allen-sama your ‘ahh~n♥’.”

“Huu, hmm... Well, it doesn’t feel bad to hear that.”

Marianne’s cheeks flush with embarrassment.

It seems that even Marianne is not accustomed to being told that she is loved.

Rosa, on the other hand, has the bearing of a woman who is accustomed to the art of seduction. According to what Allen has heard from Rosa’s own mouth, she was very popular with the students at the girls’ school she attended. Apparently they even treated her like a prince...

(This girl, isn't she better suited to be an actress than a bodyguard?)

Allen thinks so as he watches his silver-tongued sister.

"Well then, let's get to the lesson, shall we?"

Marianne puts her dessert fork down on the table.

As she finally gets to the point of their meeting, she says something Allen never expected to hear...

"A lesson in interrogation——"

\* \* \*

Since Rosa had only recently become a bodyguard, Allen has a lot of things he wants to teach her.

Protecting their employer is the duty of any bodyguard, but fighting while protecting someone else is many times more difficult than fighting alone. The first thing is to make sure that Rosa has a good understanding of what she needs to do and how to go about it.

"Interrogation lessons, ma'am?"

...Allen asks Marianne.

She takes a sip of her herbal tea and puts a smug look on her face.

"Elle told me you are a high-ranking interrogator."

"Is that so?"

"Fufu... I'm not seriously thinking of making Rosa, as a brand new knight, into my bodyguard, no matter how much I want to. If I need a bodyguard, I have enough of them posing as maids. What Maria-chan wants is her own high-ranking interrogator."

"And you want Rosa to be your high-ranking interrogator?"

“That’s precisely what I mean. I am too weak to be a queen, and I’m not interested in the throne in the first place, but I do want to take precautions in case I get involved in a succession battle.”

In these dangerous times, it’s best to take precautions early.

Marianne is the third princess... In other words, she is third in the line of succession to the throne. However, just because she is not the first in line to the throne does not mean that there is no possibility that she will be pulled into a succession battle. Elphilia, as the second princess, has already proven this point.

“Well then... What about you, Rosa?”

Allen asks his sister, who looks unconcerned.

“If you fail in the work of an interrogator, you can hurt your subject’s mind and body. The wounds we inflict on our interrogation subjects can come back to haunt us later. Failure is not an option if we are to protect our employers, so the job comes with tremendous pressure. Are you prepared for all that?”

“It’s the kind of work that Allen-onii-sama is doing. I would like to try my hand at it too.”

Rosa answers him calmly.

“You’d like to try, huh... It’s not something you can do with that level of resolve...”

He should refuse her.

As Allen comes to this conclusion...

“Then, this brilliant Maria-chan here has idea for you.”

...Marianne offers a proposal enthusiastically.

“We’ll have Bodyguard-san interrogate Rosa-chan. If Rosa gives up in the middle or if the interrogation breaks her willpower, she will be disqualified. If she makes it through the interrogation and still wants to become a high-ranking interrogator, she passes... How about it?”

“Hmm...”

Allen is impressed by this unexpectedly good idea.

“That’s fine with me. However, even if you don’t give up, I will stop immediately if I determine it’s too much for you to handle.”

“Well, that much is reasonable. Do you agree to these rules as well, Rosa?”

“Of course I do. I’ve always wished for such strict guidance from my big brother.”

Rosa’s eyes twinkle as if she is really happy.

This kind of fearlessness is the same as when she was a child.

“So let’s get started, Bodyguard-san.”

“Right here?”

Allen gets up from his chair and looks around.

The garden is surrounded by the tall hedge maze, but is completely visible from the sky. There is a danger of being peeked at from nearby roofs or tree tops.

“There is nothing to worry about. This garden, like Elle’s room, is protected by warding magic. No one can see or hear us from outside, so you can interrogate Rosa to your heart’s content.”

Marianne’s voice is bubbling with excitement.

(Interrogation isn’t a spectacle for entertainment...)

Allen swallows the words that were about to come out.

(However, I do need Marianne to see this to make sure she's also ready.)

The one hiring an interrogator also needs to have the right qualities.

However, there is one thing that makes Allen uneasy about the forthcoming interrogation.

And that is that his “Grim Reaper’s Eyes” will not work on Rosa.

Allen has the power to detect lies and weaknesses in people. He puts these abilities to good use to shake the hearts of his interrogation subjects, and they are so powerful that he can detect a disguised enemy by even the most trivial of everyday gestures.

However, whether it was because he was dealing with his own sister or because of Rosa’s tendency to be theatrical, Allen has always been strangely bad at detecting lies from her. He couldn’t see any physical weakness in her either.

It happened more than two or three times that he would fall for her fake crying and end up forgiving her when she misbehaved.

(Well, that was when we were both children...)

Allen’s abilities had been sharpened during his time serving as a knight, and they were perfected when Elphilia discovered that his abilities were useful for more than just the battlefield. His experience as an interrogator also helped him to understand how to deal with people who his abilities were ineffective against.

“Alright then... How about this?”

Marianne continues with her suggestions.

“You, Bodyguard-san, have to get Rosa to tell you a secret. It can be a silly prank she used to play as a child or something like that. The interrogation

must have a specific goal or it won't be realistic. This way if Rosa loses she'll be a little embarrassed... Rosa, are you okay with that?"

"That's no problem."

Rosa answers without hesitation.

Is she confident that she can withstand the interrogation or is she simply prepared for the consequences of losing?

"Then there are just two questions I'd like to ask you."

Allen stands in front of Rosa.

Being just as short as Elphilia, Rosa has to look almost straight up to meet his gaze.

She stands with a dignified posture, with her arms folded behind her back and her chest slightly arched.

"Well, first of all... It was ten years ago, when I was twelve and Rosa was six. I received my first love letter from a girl who lived nearby. Actually, it's a bit embarrassing to talk about now."

"That did happen..."

"But when I was ready to write back to her, the love letter was gone from my room somehow. I'm guessing you must have thrown it away."

"I threw it away."

Rosa answers nonchalantly.

"I felt frustrated that someone else sent my brother a love letter before I did... I do feel sorry about it though, both toward you and the girl who sent it."

"It was ten years ago. I don't really care anymore."

Allen replies with patience, but inside something is eating at him.

(Can this degree of secrecy even be called an interrogation?)

It seems that Rosa's willpower is slightly beyond Allen's expectation.

Allen decides to change his tactic for the second question.

"Then, next, four years ago now... I was eighteen and Rosa was twelve. When I came back to our parents' home from the capital, Rosa helped me by washing my laundry. It made me quite happy."

"You're welcome..."

"But when I checked my laundry after you returned it, it was always missing a few things. You said you had just gotten rid of the worn out pieces. But it is unlikely that the same thing happened time and time again. Is it possible that you lost them or tore them by accident while doing my laundry?"

"Fufu... Please go ahead and try to find out."

Rosa continues to smile comfortably.

(Since she didn't answer immediately, she must have something she wants to keep secret after all.)

Allen ponders what method he should use.

"Rosa, put your hands on the table and raise your hips."

He decided to try a familiar method first.

When Rosa misbehaved as a young girl, Allen used to punish her with the so called "butt clapping". {TL: lit. "butt-pen-pen", where I believe "pen" is the sound of a string instrument}

It would be humiliating to be subjected to such a thing now, for the sixteen-year-old Rosa.

Allen is certain of that, but...

“Oh my... I kind of missed this.”

...Rosa actually looks quite relaxed and does as she was told.

“Let’s play, big brother♥”

A modest, little ass sticks out towards Allen.

The guard uniform worn by women has a short skirt for ease of movement.

Therefore, the smooth contours of her hips peek out from the hem of the skirt, revealing a glimpse of the simple white panties she wears. And the way her slender legs stretch out from her skirt is enough to pique even Allen’s fascination.

Even when viewed from the side, with her hands on the table, Rosa’s body does not slouch even a bit. The graceful silhouette from her chest to her midriff is breathtaking, and leaves no room to wonder why she was accepted into the Royal Order.

“Fufuu... I can feel big brother’s eyes focused on my ass♥ But is this enough? I’ve heard that you are supposed to take off your clothes during interrogations, and if it’s my big brother’s command, I would do so at anytime, in any place——”

“It’s sometimes needed when the suspect might be hiding something, but that isn’t necessary right now.”

“There’s no need to be shy, big brother♥”

In the first place, it would be too awkward to strip his little sister naked.

Besides, for once, it will be easier to do it if she is clothed.

“Okay then... Let’s get started.”

Allen gives Marianne a final look to confirm.

She replies, somewhat nervously...

“...Y-yeah, please do it.”

Marianne can sense Allen’s energy change as he enters his work mode. Rosa is no longer the only person present who seems to be relaxed.

“Be careful not to bite your tongue, Rosa.”

“Nn♥ If you frighten me like that, my hips will start moving even before you hit me♥ But I’m sixteen years old now... No matter how much it hurts, I’m not going to be defeated by a childish punishment like ‘butt clapping’——”

Allen secures Rosa’s body with his left hand and swings his right hand down towards her tiny rear end. Most of his palm strikes through her skirt or underwear, while his fingertips make direct contact with Rosa’s flesh.

Instantly...

“——Hyahiiii♥”

...Rosa, who had been so relaxed up until now, screams like a scared puppy.

Her arms and legs begin to buckle and sweat breaks out all over her body at once. Whereas before she could meet her brother’s gaze, now she struggles just to hold herself up and she falls forward until her cheek rests against the table.

“Ah♥ ah♥ ah♥ ...hah, hahii♥”

Rosa’s expression makes it clear that she has no idea what is happening to her body.

She somehow manages to suppress the feeling it by squeezing her thighs together, leaving them shiny and slippery with sweat. The unexpected shock to her senses is incomparable to the “butt clapping” she remembers from when she was a little girl and seems to have rendered her senseless.

(That should have been less than half the force I used with Elphilia-sama... I suppose it's not surprising that someone who has never been interrogated would become like this.)

Anyone would be unnerved by being spanked in an embarrassing posture.

If Allen were to strike precisely at the center of the human body with his exceptional technique, most people would suffer great mental and physical damage, regardless of whether or not it was their personal weak point. If Rosa had prepared herself properly, it might have been different, but this is also her mistake in thinking that it would be a “mere butt clapping”.

“Now, for the second round——”

“Ha...♥ Ahuu...♥ Haaa...♥”

Rosa, unable to bear anymore, sinks down to the ground.

Allen looks down at her little body.

“Oi oi, we’ve only gotten through one spanking. Are you already giving up? This is supposed to be training——”

“Gi-give up... I’m not giv..... nn♥ Nnnnn♥”

Rosa somehow manages to lift herself back up using the tea table as a support.

Her limbs are trembling slightly, and it seems as if she would easily be knocked down with the slightest push.

Even so, the fact that she has endured so far proves that Rosa has a mental fortitude that is beyond Allen’s expectation, if just barely. A strong mind is essential for a high-ranking interrogator, but as an older brother, he wonders if he should be happy about this fact or not...

“Marianne-sama, are you okay with this continuing?”

“Ye-yes! Please go ahead!”

Marianne, apparently startled by the intensity of the interrogation, huffs out an answer.

Allen again supports Rosa with his left hand and raises his right hand high in the air.

(Don't fall down in one shot this time!)

Earlier he had struck her on the right side of her small butt, so he aims the second blow at her left side.

A popping sound, like a wet towel being snapped, rings out through the garden.

“Hahiii♥”

Rosa lets out a pitiful scream and falls flat on the tea table.

Her body is incapable of keeping up with the strength of her will to endure the interrogation.

Witnessing such a spectacle...

“A-amazing.....”

...Marianne unwittingly lets out her impression, her voice being squeezed from the very back of her throat. She clutches her rosary tightly in both hands.

“Since it's called interrogation, I was expecting you to use a leather whip or something, but I didn't realize that a simple spanking with your bare hand would have such an effect... If the same thing were to be done to me, even Maria-chan here would be in serious trouble——”

“Rest assured, Marianne-sama.”

...Allen speaks calmly to the pale faced girl...

“I won’t need to interrogate you as long as you don’t threaten Elphilia-sama’s position.”

He tries to soothe her fears by putting on the biggest smile he can muster...

“Hiii——”

...But it seems to have the opposite effect, for Marianne’s expression tightens.

Starting to recover while they were talking...

“Big brother, please keep going... Nnm♥ nn♥”

...Rosa raises her face and props herself up on the table.

Her fair skin has a deep blush to it, and droplets of sweat are visible on the nape of her neck.

She shakes her hips to prove that her stamina hasn’t run out yet.

“I won’t confess just from this much♥ Big brother’s spanking... At first I was a little shocked, but now it feels really good♥ Come on, hit my ass more, please♥ I love it when big brother spanks me♥”

“Don’t push yourself too hard, Rosa. If you do give up here, it’s not like you’re going to be kicked out of the princess palace... Isn’t that right, Marianne-sama?”

Marianne points to herself as if to say “Me?” in response to the sudden question. Then she folds her arms and smiles in her usual confident manner.

“Please don’t underestimate Maria-chan here. I didn’t just decide to hire Rosa because she is your sister. She has no career, no combat experience... But I hired her because I thought she has excellent talent. I won’t let her go so easily!”

“Thank you, Marianne-sama.”

Rosa accepts her mistress's kindness.

She looks up at Allen again and a shiver runs down her spine.

"But I won't play into your hands♥ You dare to try to make me surrender by offering me an easy way out... If you want to break my spirit, then please spank my ass to your heart's content♥ Hey, my ass is waiting for the palm of your hand, big brother♥"

Rosa impatiently wiggles her butt at him, which still bears two bright red hand prints.

The short skirt of her guard uniform is gradually pulled up, exposing her white panties which cling tightly to her sweat-soaked body. The way her inner thighs occasionally tense up, as if she is savoring the lingering sensation in her hips, clearly conveys to everyone gathered her frantic desperation.

"...What excellent spirit!!"

Allen continues to deliver blows to Rosa's backside in quick succession.

"Haaaaahhn♥"

Her small butt, tight and with little excess fat, feels completely different from the butts of Elphilia and Gabriella when he spanked them. His little sister's cheeky butt is much like her personality the way it bounces straight back whenever it is hit.

"Ah... Th-there♥ Right there♥ Nnm, it feels good♥"

Allen notices a change in Rosa's voice as he continues to spank her.

Not only is she enduring the interrogation, but she seems to be savoring the treatment, as if she is feeling her brother's love in his strict guidance. She is definitely feeling the pain. And it is certainly embarrassing for her to be spanked at her age. However, Rosa's body recognizes that there is something for her to gain from the interrogation if she is willing to accept it.

“More♥ please spank me more♥ big brother’s hands feel so kind... Ahnn♥”

Rosa shakes her perky little ass and begs.

Her expression is longing and her eyes are watering with lust.

(Then I’ll make it even harder, as you wish.)

Allen speaks to her, intending to break her spirit all at once.

“Have you accepted the interrogation? ...That is your weakness.”

“Wea-weakness...nnn♥ My heart, big brother has stripped it bare♥”

“You should have been trying to withstand the interrogation, not to submit to it. Once you accept your role as the subject of the interrogation, the only thing left for you is to surrender completely and lose your ability to fight.”

“I don’t want to lose... B-but... If big brother makes me fall for him♥”

Allen stops holding back and finally delivers a serious blow.



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The moment Rosa's ass is smacked, her whole body becomes tense.

"Ha♥ Ha♥ Ha♥"

With her mouth agape and her hoarse breath leaking out, she looks like a dog having fun playing with its owner. Her back is arched and she is standing on her toes, her buttocks sticking out as if she were wagging her tail.

"Please♥ Big brother♥ My butt♥ more, more—"

Rosa's expression is melting.

Allen wordlessly deals another blow to her small backside.

"——Nnnmm♥ nmm♥ nn♥ Haa... Big... Brotherr...♥"

Rosa bites her lip and tries her hardest to withstand the impact.

But her body is honest. Her back spasms and her hips buck wildly. Even when Allen stops his hand, her body does not stop quivering. As a result of completely accepting the spanking, her body has become so aroused that she is lost in the afterglow of the spanking.

"I can't... No... No more♥"

Rosa's body slips off the table and plops down on the ground.

The sight of Rosa prostrate on the ground with her bottom sticking out would look pathetic to those who knew nothing about her. However, Allen, who has witnessed Rosa's determination time and time again, understands. The way she sticks her butt out is proof that she has done her best.

"Haa♥ It was... a total defeat... Haah♥"

Rosa lifts her upper body with shaky hands.

“I can count on my hands... the number of times I was hit... Gah♥ So soon... I can’t believe♥ I reached my limit so quickly... Nnn♥ So this is big brother’s ability as a high-ranking interrogator...”

“I-I feel like I’ve just witnessed something incredible...”

Marianne’s eyes are bloodshot from her excitement.

“The power of a high-ranking interrogator... I really want it for my own safety.”

“It will be up to Rosa to obtain it then.”

However, the interrogation is not over yet.

An interrogation cannot be said to be complete until a confession of guilt is heard.

“Let me give you a hand.”

“Thank you... Allen-onii-sama.....”

Allen helps Rosa up from her slumped position.

Her legs and feet are still shaking like a newborn lamb.

Rosa has a delicate body, so as her older brother, he can’t help but worry about her.

“Anyway...”

Marianne exhales audibly with excitement.

“Even though Maria-chan here instructed you to do it, I can’t believe you would go as far as spanking your little sister’s butt to make her confess her childhood pranks... Wouldn’t you feel guilty if the truth about the missing laundry was that it had been stolen by wild birds and used to build a nest or something like that?”

For Allen's part, he doesn't care much about the truth of the matter.

Allen didn't have any trouble writing a response to the love letter that went missing, and he wasn't bothered by the loss of an article of laundry or two.

"I was the one who came up with the excuse for a realistic interrogation. Please don't worry yourself over it, Marianne-sama... More importantly, Rosa, will you be honest with me about what happened to my laundry?"

"Yes, I'll do it."

Rosa had already admitted that she had lost to his interrogation.

Her understanding is one of her virtues.

"Four years ago... Back then, Allen-onii-sama was a Royal Knight and I was enrolled in a girl's boarding school. We saw each other less than ever and my loneliness was at its peak."

"That's right. We would see each other once or twice a year at most..."

My heart was filled with anxiety. I wondered if my brother had met a wonderful woman in the capital and had gotten into a close relationship with her without me knowing it... I was imagining such things, and I was growing unbearably jealous. And then——"

Rosa finally tells the truth about the lost laundry incident.

"I... was the one who took big brother's dirty laundry!"

Immediately...

"Bwah!!"

...Marianne spits out the herbal tea she was drinking. Fortunately no one is hit by the spray.

Allen sighs heavily.

“So... That’s what it was about.”

“Eh!? That’s all you have to say!?”

Marianne shouts as she wipes her mouth with a handkerchief.

Rosa uses her own handkerchief to cover her eyes as she continues.

“While we were separated, I wanted to at least be able to smell my big brother. So I took his dirty clothes under the pretext of helping him with his laundry. In particular, his shirts and underwear have a very distinct smell... I made them into all sorts of things like pajamas, handkerchiefs, or pillowcases.”

Rosa holds a hand to her chest and starts sniffing the handkerchief, which seems to calm her down.

“I was able to distract myself from my loneliness at the time because of big brother’s dirty clothes... It would have been a waste to wash them. Big brother’s smell is like a perfume or an aroma candle for me.”

“Uh, umm... Bodyguard-san?”

...Marianne asks timidly...

“Rosa was twelve when she was secretly stealing laundry, right? For a twelve year old girl to do something like this... Aren’t her hobbies a little too strange? From Maria-chan’s point of view, you are accepting this fact far too easily——”

“Marianne-sama.”

Rosa, who was still sniffing her handkerchief, suddenly leans forward and looks into Marianne’s eyes. The two of them are not only nose to nose, but are so close that they might inadvertently kiss each other.

“This is a matter between siblings.”

“Y-yes, you’re ri-right...”

Marianne's voice falters as her heart pounds erratically.

She pushes Rosa back and fans her blushing face with her hand.

"...A-anyway! I have to give a reward from the lovely and cute Maria-chan here to the Bodyguard-san who successfully interrogated you! I've never shown this to anyone before, and it's a big, big, big service, so you should be grateful, okay?"

Marianne rises from her chair energetically.

(Is she about to begin her seduction attack...)

Allen braces himself and...

"But first... I need to use the toilet!"

...Marianne suddenly announces and runs off into the hedge maze.

"Oh my."

...says Rosa, smiling.

"You've been drinking a lot of herbal tea, haven't you?"

"Well, just wait right there."

This kind of endearing cuteness may be another of Marianne's charms.

With that thought in mind, Allen waits for her to return.

A dozen minutes have already passed since Marianne headed to the bathroom.

"Rosa, is the area where you were hit doing all right?"

"Yes, the pain has subsided."

Rosa is unable to sit in her chair due to how sore her butt is, but because she is also physically exhausted, Allen is lending her his shoulder.

“Besides... this pain is a sign that my dear brother has given me his loving guidance.”

Rosa softly pats her rear end over her clothes while looking entranced.

“I found the pain of being spanked by you rather endearing. Even though I was driven over and over to the point of having my spirit broken, I was able to get up again because I could feel the love of my big brother in every strike.”

“Are you still determined to become Marianne’s high-ranking interrogator?”

“Of course I am.”

Rosa nods vigorously in affirmation to Allen’s question.

“I hope Allen-onii-sama will continue to give me spankings... No, I mean... I would like you keep giving me harsh interrogation lessons. If you want, next time you can use a whip, ropes, perhaps a wooden horse to——”

“No, that was just to test your resolve...”

He is enjoying a conversation with his sister for the first time in too long.

Suddenly, he hears the sound of a large number of footsteps coming from the other side of the hedges.

(What is it!?)

Allen quickly steps in front of Rosa.

But his caution is soon put to rest, for what comes out from the hedge is a group of maids armed with guitars, trumpets, tambourines, and other musical instruments.

The maids line up in a large open space in front of the wisteria trellis, looking like they are about to start an orchestra concert.

“Thank you for waiting!”

Finally, Marianne comes out from the hedge maze to join them.

In her right hand she holds a small device... a so-called “microphone”. It is a convenient magical tool that uses magic ore to amplify one’s voice.

(What’s going to happen now?)

As Allen wonders...

“Allen-onii-sama, please take these.”

...Rosa hands him several sticks glowing with red, blue, or yellow light. It seems that the colorful glowing effect is caused by a coating of magic ore powder.

Rosa holds one of the sticks in her hand, showing him what to do.

Unsure, Allen imitates her and hold a couple of the sticks.

“Fufufu... You look surprised, Bodyguard-san.”

Marianne stands in the center of the group of maids holding their instruments.

“Here is your reward for doing such a fine job with the interrogation lesson. Now, Maria-chan here will sing a song just for you... But it is not just our national anthem or the type of hymn that I usually sing. This is an original song written and composed by Maria-chan herself, inspired by songs popular with the young people.”

“An original song?”

Allen is not familiar with the kind of music young people consider popular, and from Marianne’s explanation he isn’t sure what to expect from her.

“Fufufu... Then let's start with the costume!”

Marianne takes off the habit-like dress she is wearing and tosses it high into the sky. It flutters down and catches on a hedge.

Allen's eyes widen.

Under her usual dress, Marianne is wearing an outfit colored white and light blue, packed with ruffles, and that exposes her midriff. It is bright and glamorous, something like a wedding dress combined with a mini skirt.

Rosa's eyes light up.

“She's a diva, Allen-onii-sama! A princess-diva!”

“Diva?”

“It means a star who dazzles everyone with her singing and dancing.”

“——That's right!”

Marianne winks at them with a twinkling eye.

“I hope you enjoy this original song by the princess-diva, Maria-chan!”

The maids begin to play and Marianne begins to dance with light steps.

The choreography has a cuteness quite different than the ballroom dancing Allen knows.

The bright, poppy tunes are catchy. Even Allen, who is unaccustomed to this kind of music, finds himself touched by the song.

“Big brother, shake them!”

“Uh... Like this?”

Allen imitates Rosa and waves the glowing sticks he was given in time with the song.

When Marianne sees them cheering, she says...

“Here we go! The magic of smiles!”

With a big smile on her face, she strikes a series of daring poses.

Every time she does a turn or jump, her breasts, which are disproportionate to her slight frame, bounce around dramatically. When she spreads her arms out wide, Allen can see the sweat trickling down her smooth armpits.



The lyrics of the song are simple and the message is conveyed in a very straightforward manner, “The diva Maria-chan will support you, so please be grateful!” But her words seem compelling because of the fact that she never stops smiling.

(There's no way this much singing and dancing isn't hard on her body...)

Seeing Marianne working her hardest makes Allen want to cheer her on. While thinking in his heart, “Keep it up!”, he feels a warmth well up from within his chest.

(The sickly Marianne-sama, who is always worrying everyone around her, is trying to encourage us by shedding so much sweat!)

Allen finds himself deeply touched.

It's an emotion he's unfamiliar with.

Marianne finishes her song.

Her breathing is ragged, her whole body is sweaty, and she can barely keep standing.

“Haa... Haa... H-How was it, Bodyguard-san?”

Marianne asks the maids to wipe her sweat and bring her a drink of water. After she regains her breath, she lets them depart back through the hedge maze.

“When you marry Maria-chan here, I will perform a special song only for you. Not even kings from any country have had the luxury of making a princess into their own personal diva.”

“Hmm, Allen Brackish here is impressed!”

...says Allen, excitedly and frankly sharing his opinion.

In fact, he feels so uplifted after her song that he wants to ask for a handshake.

“Fufuu... I’m glad to hear that.”

Marianne’s expression is glowing after her performance.

“Then, are you starting to think about marrying Maria-chan he... haa...”

Suddenly, her body sways greatly.

“Watch out!!”

Allen and Rosa run to her simultaneously and catch Marianne as she falls.

Her body’s stamina is completely empty.

“It seems you are steadily falling in love with Maria-chan, to make such a dramatic catch... Fufufu... Just as I planned. But don’t misunderstand, okay? This is just a strategy to get you away from Elle.”

“Yes, of course, I understand.”

Because he understands, he doesn’t want Marianne to overwhelm herself.

(If she were to get hurt because she’s trying to get my attention, how could I face Elphilia-sama.....)

Allen leaves Marianne in Rosa’s care.

“I’m sure you’re tired, so I’ll leave you here. You should take the rest of the day to recover.”

“If you want, you can help take care of Maria-chan.”

“I’ll let Rosa handle that. I will visit you again when you are well.”

“I see...”

Marianne hesitates a moment.

She looks like a child disappointed that her friend is heading home.

Rosa responds with her eyes that he can leave everything to her.

Allen bows deeply and leaves Marianne's garden.

His primary goal of not falling for Marianne's seduction was successful. However, he can't help but think that it would be fine if he was summoned again.

# Chapter 10 - Gabriella's Counterattack

Nearly a week has passed since Allen was first called to Marianne's garden. Since then, he has been called back repeatedly.

Marianne has tried to feed him cakes and tarts with her "ahh~n♥", shown him stage costume changes as if it was a fashion show, and had him take pictures of her because she wanted to make a photo album... Marianne's methods of seduction were varied and many.

Thankfully for Allen, the more Marianne tried to seduce him, the more he got to see of her healthy nature. She would make a childish attempt at seduction, then get tired and have to take a break, then resume the seduction, then get tired again... and so on.

He still has no intention of marrying her, but he genuinely wants to support her as one of her fans.

Allen had at some point come to think this way.

When that happened, he could no longer stay inclined to drive Marianne away in a harsh way.

He wondered how to get her to give up on the idea of marriage without hurting her feelings. Or rather, how to get her to fix her desire to monopolize Elphilia's friendship.

Besides, Allen has his pride as the older one between them. Setting aside their positions as a princess and a bodyguard, he wants to help Marianne,

who has become a lost sheep. If he can't do anything to help her, he'll feel too pathetic.

(If it were possible, it would be best to have Elphilia-sama talk her out of it...)

Allen thinks about this as he goes about his daily routine. Suddenly he hears a loud and excessively cheerful voice coming from above his head.

“A-lle-n-sa-maaa!!”

He looks up to see Marie waving at him from a second story window of the princess palace.

“Come to the courtyard, please!”

“Ah, I'll be right there!”

Allen waves back to her.

Because he had constantly been getting summoned to Marianne's princess palace, it has been a while since he had seen Marie. Not so long ago, she used to persistently sneak into his bed at night, but she has stopped doing so. Perhaps she has started to mature in her own way, or maybe she simply got bored of it...

When Allen arrives at the courtyard Marie is already waiting for him on a bench.

For some reason, Rebecca is also there, sitting next to Marie.

Rebecca, dressed in her school uniform, has her hands behind her back and is obviously hiding something.

When Allen walks over to her, she looks up at him with her golden eyes twinkling.

“A-Allen-sama...”

Rebecca calls his name in a quiet voice, but seems like she's hesitating to say something more.

Allen takes a long moment to look at her.

(If it's something that's hard to say, maybe I should avoid asking her about it...)

While he is thinking about how to respond to her, Marie urges on Rebecca from the side.

"Hey, Rebecca! You have to tell him!"

"Um, umm... Then, Allen-sama..."

With trembling hands, Rebecca holds out the thing she had been hiding behind her back.

It is a paper bag decorated with cute ribbons.

"These... are homemade cookies! Please take them!"

"Ooh!?"

(What did I do to deserve homemade cookies?)

Although Allen only thinks this in his head, Rebecca tries to explain in a shaky voice.

"Umm, I... Thanks to Allen-sama, I have more confidence in myself and I have more friends at school... I wanted to thank you for that. It's my first time making them, so they may not be very good, but Marie helped me out and... That's why, please take it!"

Such a polite reason is very like Rebecca. Her honesty comes across, and Allen is happy to see it.

"Fufuun, I helped make them too!"

...Marie, who has been watching the scene, says proudly.

(This frivolous Marie helped!?)

Allen is surprised by this, but holds back from saying so out loud.

Marie's feline ears twitch joyfully.

"Rebecca is from the East, you know? She can cook the dishes from her hometown pretty well, but she didn't know how to make sweets the way we do in Virginia, so she worked really hard to get it right! Well, I'd never cooked anything before myself though."

"It was thanks to you, Marie, that I was able to make the cookies!"

"No, no, it was all of Rebecca's effort!"

The scene of Rebecca and Marie praising each other makes Allen feel warm.

"Thank you, Rebecca. Can I try them now?"

"Ehh!? Right now!?"

Rebecca's eyes go wide with surprise.

"If possible, well, maybe you could not eat them, and just leave them on display..."

"What's the point of having cookies on display... Anyway, I'll eat one now."

Allen opens the paper bag and takes out a cookie from inside. The cookie is baked into a misshapen star.

When he takes a bite, the cookie makes a nice crispy sound. A mild sweetness gradually fills his mouth.

"It's delicious! I like the taste!"

“Really!?”

“It’s at the same level as the sweets Elphilia-sama has at her tea parties. You should have confidence in your cooking skills.”

“Y-yes...”

Rebecca covers her bright red face with her hands.

She still becomes embarrassed when she gets complimented.

Marie pats her on the back and says, “That’s great!”

“Since we’re here, let’s all three of us eat together. There’s plenty to go around.”

“Ah, then...”

Rebecca looks up and pokes Marie’s shoulder with her finger.

“Hey, now it’s Marie’s turn!”

“Nnyah!?”

Marie is so startled that her tail sticks straight up. She is usually so sunny and cheerful, but today she is unusually fidgety.

Allen realizes that she must be hiding something too.

“Rebecca gave you her cookies, so I have to do it too...”

Marie holds out something she had been hiding behind her back. A notebook.

“Ta-da! This is my first work!”

“Ooh! You finally finished it!”

Marie, an ex-thief, had shared with Rebecca a heroic story of her former life... It was a story she had completely made up, but it was quite entertaining all the same. After hearing the story himself, Allen and the others encouraged Marie to turn it into a novel.

“I heard that you never missed a day practicing your reading and writing...”

“Ehehe, I wanted to read it together with Allen-sama.”

“I’ve been looking forward to it. Come on, let’s all read it together!”

Allen sits down in the center of the bench.

Marie sits down next to him and leans in close. Her feline ears twitch nervously.

Rebecca sits on his other side. Her fluffy blonde hair smells like the freshly baked cookies.

Marie starts to open her notebook... but she can’t quite get her hands to move.

“Ah,ahaha... I’m still embarrassed! I’m not bothered when I’m just telling a story, but to think that someone is going to read something I wrote, right in front of me...”

“Everyone starts out as a beginner. I don’t think you have anything to worry about.”

“But I’m still kind of scared...”

Marie smiles bashfully.

“It’s strange, isn’t it? When I was living as a thief, I wasn’t scared at all when I stole food or picked pockets in the market, so why is it so scary to have people read a story I’ve written...”

“It’s not easy to show people what’s in your heart... Everyone is afraid of that. I am too.”

“Even Allen-sama?”

Marie looks doubtful.

Rebecca also looks like she is wondering if he's really telling them the truth.

(I guess I must come across as someone fearless to them...)

Allen chuckles at what he feels is an exaggerated assessment of himself.

“When I was working for the Royal Order of Knights, sometimes when I came back from an assignment a girl would come to deliver a bouquet of flowers to me. I was really happy about that, but when it was a beautiful woman that came, I'd get nervous inside... But I had to try hard to not let people see that I was nervous, you see? This might ruin your image of me, but even I get scared sometimes...”

“Y-you can always let yourself be scared when you're with me!”

After she says this, Marie gasps and claps her hand over her mouth. Her feline ears twitch involuntarily.

“You see, thanks to Allen-sama, I was able to admit my true desire to live a ladylike life... So I won't be disappointed if Allen-sama acts scared in front of me. And if you are a little flustered around me, it would make me feel more confident as a woman...”

Rebecca nods enthusiastically in agreement.

“I wouldn't mind Allen-sama acting nervous around me either! It's hard to act as a knight or a bodyguard in public, isn't it? I also get exhausted sometimes when I have to be tough as Elphilia-sama's court wizard...”

“Both of you... Ah, alright then.”

He never expected to be cared for like this by Rebecca and Marie, who are neither royalty like Elphilia nor guards like Kurone, but more like ordinary girls...

Allen is even happier to see how much they have grown in the time he's known them.

"Well, let's get to reading then."

Allen and the two girls, feeling encouraged, finally begin to read Marie's book.

"I started out as an orphan, but then I met someone who trained me to become a master thief..... I was on an adventure with my master, but in the middle of the adventure, my master was captured by an enemy..... So I was able to rescue my master safely, and I was allowed to go out on my own——"

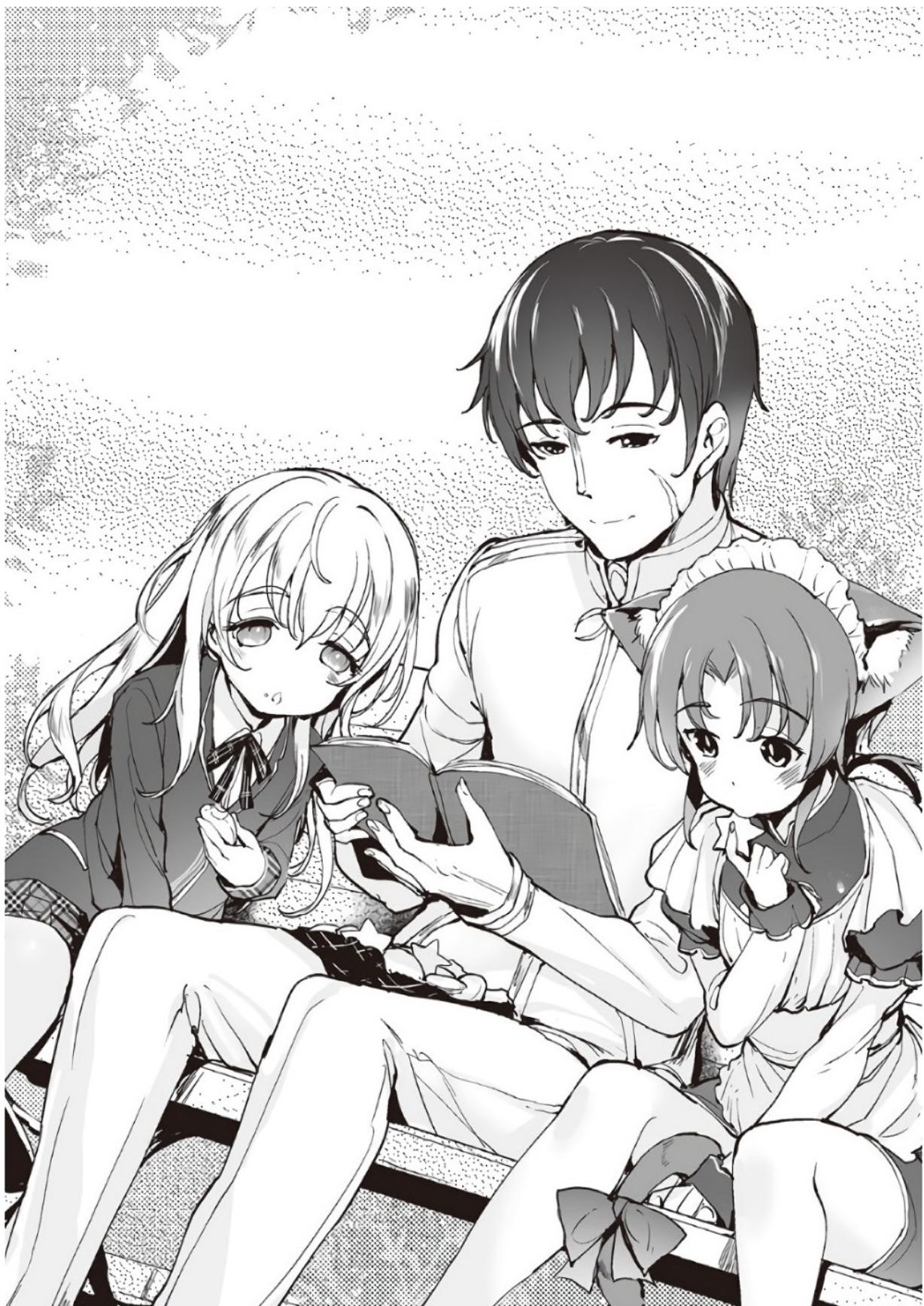
Although her writing is sloppy, the adventures she describes are full of ups and downs that keep Allen on the edge of his seat. It reminds him of the children's adventure novels he read when he was a boy.

"And so, I found out that the pendant I had been wearing since my master found me was actually a memento of the legendary great thief. So I had the blood of the great thief in my veins, and now I was being targeted because of it by the man who betrayed the legendary great thief in the past——"

The book includes illustrations in places, which are quite well done and really improve the atmosphere.

(Marie's has a lot more talents than I expected...)

Allen falls in love with her talent as he is immersed in the story. It was so much fun that while the three of them started out eating the delicious cookies together, before they knew it their hands have stopped.



“This is great! It’s going to be a hit with kids!”

“Ye-yeah? I’m so happy!”

Marie’s eyes fill with tears of relief.

Rebecca takes Marie by the hand and congratulates her wholeheartedly as well.

“I’m so happy for you, Marie-san!”

“Unh, unh... I’ve never studied hard in my entire life... But I’m so glad I was able to complete this story. I was able to do it because of Rebecca and Allen-sama. Thank you so much!”

“You’re welcome. It was a lot of fun for me too.”

Rebecca’s baking and Marie’s first novel are both a success, and they feel really good about it.

Allen thinks to himself how nice it is to be thanked by other people.

(Now then, let’s talk about the story while eating the rest of the cookies...)

Just as he is thinking that...

“Allen-sama! Hey!”

...Rebecca breaks in, wanting to say something before she forgets.

“Hm? What’s wrong?”

“Umm... It’s about Elphilia-sama...”

Rebecca and Marie already know that Allen had been proposed to by Marianne. In the carriage on the way back from the concert, Elphilia revealed the whole story when they asked her about Marianne.

Allen also trusts both of them and doesn't feel the need to hide anything from them. In fact, he had been expecting to be asked about it for a while, but...

"I think Elphilia-sama is worried after all!"

Rebecca pleads with serious eyes.

"She believes in Allen-sama, so she's okay with the situation... That's how she acts, but inside her heart, I'm sure she must be anxious. I believe in Allen-sama, too, but when I think about something like that, it makes my chest hurt. So... Please don't ever leave Elphilia-sama's side!"

Rebecca's tender kindness is conveyed through her words.

"Aaa, of course I won't."

Allen answers immediately, wanting to answer her feelings.

"I-I see... That's good..."

...Rebecca says with obvious relief.

Then, from beside Rebecca...

"Oh, ohh? Isn't it that Rebecca doesn't want Allen-sama to leave her the most?"

...Marie grins and begins teasing Rebecca in her usual manner.

"H-hey! Marie-san!"

Rebecca blushes with embarrassment and starts to hit Marie with light fists.

"Just the other day, Marie-san even went to the trouble of coming to my room just to ask me what would happen if Allen-sama were taken away by Marianne-sama——"

"Uwah! Nuh-uh! Forget I said that!"

Allen watches the two girls play with a peaceful mood.

The carefree morning passes slowly.

“.....and that’s everything that happened.”

Allen finishes summarizing what happened this morning.

After parting with the two girls, Allen had come to Elphilia’s room.

This time, however, he was not summoned there by Elphilia. Marianne had given him the instructions, “Please wait for me in Elle’s room!”

“It seems I’ve been causing you a lot of worries.”

Elphilia is sitting at the tea table looking through a pile of papers.

Each of the princesses of the Kingdom of Virginia has her own job. Gabriella supports wine farmers, Marianne is a musician, and so on. Most of the work is devised and carried out by the princesses themselves.

The amount of work Elphilia deals with is by far the largest.

Among her jobs, the most important one is a reconstruction project for villages damaged by monsters and bandits. The King of Virginia is focused on expanding the Royal Order of Knights, so he has entrusted Elphilia with the restoration work.

Seeing her performing her official duties so admirably makes Allen proud, but seeing her so busy also makes him wish she could take some time off. At times like this, his position of high-ranking interrogator isn’t good for much.

“Elle! I’ve come to pick up your Bodyguard-san!”

Marianne suddenly opens the door and walks in. Behind her is Rosa, who looks perfectly at home.

“Good day, Maria.”

Elphilia finally puts her work aside.

“I’m sorry that I haven’t been able to make time to see you...”

“Elle is very busy, it’s no wonder... So, in exchange for not seeing you as often as I’d like, I’ll be taking your Bodyguard-san on a date. Is that all right with you?”

“Yes, that’s fine.”

Elphilia readily agrees.

Marianne puts her hand down on the tea table and lets out a long sigh.

“Nmooh! ‘I don’t want my best friend Maria-chan to be taken away by my bodyguard!’ Why won’t Elle tell me something like that? All men are hungry wolves, aren’t they? Besides, Maria-chan here is a once-in-a-millennium beauty in the same tier as Elle, right?”

“That’s right, I know better than anyone how pretty Maria is.”

Elphilia gives her a hearty smile.

“But don’t worry, I know Allen won’t turn into a wolf.”

“Gaaah! Looks at how much she trusts you!”

Marianne glares at Allen.

“For you to capture Elle’s heart this much... it seems like in order to get rid of you, I have no choice but to marry you and lock you up! Today is the day I’m going to make you fall in love with Maria, so get ready and be grateful to me!”

“Mhm, my pleasure.”

Allen replies cheerfully.

This kind of exchange has become an everyday occurrence by now.

Putting aside Marianne, who is now pouting...

“Have you gotten used to life in the princess section?”

...Elphilia suddenly asks a question of Rosa.

Rosa's eyes flash with surprise, as if she was not expecting the princess to be concerned about her, but she immediately relaxes her expression into a smile and answers in her usual tone.

“Yes, Marianne-sama is very kind, and Allen-sama is so diligent in coaching me... He even spanked me during our interrogation training.”

“——Rosa, you don't have to say that much.”

Allen immediately cuts her off, even though he realizes it's too late.

Elphilia smiles back at Rosa.

“Oh my... then we have something in common as two girls who have been spanked by Allen.”

“Eh!?”

Rosa is taken aback and her body goes rigid.

Elphilia's words are meant to express a sense of kinship with Rosa, but Allen feels there is a hint of intimidation behind them as well.

(That's exactly why I didn't want her to mention it.)

“I had Allen spank my ass to see if he had the aptitude to be my high-ranking interrogator. I didn't tell him the meaning of the test, and it was completely out of the blue, but Allen's hidden talents bloomed beautifully.”

Marianne, who is listening next to her, chimes in...

“Hmhmm... It's a shame that it was for the sake of this Bodyguard-san, but to think that you would put your own body on the line to draw out

someone's talent... As expected of Elle! You're my best friend! I'm still too weak to even try to imitate you!"

"Is... that so... Did that... really happen...?"

Rosa's voice is trembling, as if her mind is trying to suppress whatever is happening in her heart.

"Elphilia-sama... has experienced such a loving interrogation?"

"I wasn't going to tell anyone, but... I wanted to cheer you on as someone who had been through the same thing. Allen's tutelage may be strict, but I am sure there is love in it as well. I'm rooting for you to learn the same loving interrogation that Allen practices."

"Thank you. I am honored to have Elphilia-sama share her words of encouragement with me."

Rosa bows deeply.

(I thought her jealousy might explode, but it looks like my fears were unnecessary...)

Allen joins her in bowing.

"Let me thank you too. Thank you for encouraging Rosa."

"It's for Allen's little sister. So I thought I should offer my support."

Elphilia gives them her best saint-like smile.

"So Elle has literally given up her bare flesh to verify the skills of her Bodyguard-san..."

Marianne mutters something with great anguish.

"But, putting that aside, let's get on with our date right away! Come on, let's go. Maria-chan here will also expose some bare skin to make you fall in love with her!"

“Elphilia-sama, I’ll be going.”

Allen leaves Elphilia’s room accompanied by Marianne and Rosa.

(But what does Marianne-sama mean by taking her on a date...)

Allen already has a hunch about what she is planning.

“...Well, I called it a date, but we can’t stray that far from the princess palace.”

Allen was brought to the lakeside rest area in the princess section.

The rest area is located on a hill overlooking the lake. Enclosed within a large gazebo is a circular table large enough to accommodate ten people. It is a popular spot for outings for the residents of the princess section, and even the princesses have to make reservations to use it.

Allen and Marianne are sitting across from each other at the table.

Rosa is standing beside Marianne, with her usual smug grin on her face.

“Actually, Maria-chan would have liked to go to the main street of the city, go shopping with Bodyguard-san carrying her bags, explore some popular tourist spots, and finally have some gelato at the fountain plaza.”

But of course, she can’t do that.

“The fairy of reason in Maria-chan’s head says to me, ‘If you cause trouble outside the palace, you won’t be able to take it back’, and, ‘If it gets out that you’re on a secret date with Elle’s Bodyguard-san, Maria-chan will be under house arrest for a while, no matter how lenient papa is to her’.”

“And for me, no matter what excuse I come up with, I’ll be exiled or put to death.”

“Maria-chan had an untimely fit of illness on the date, and you were resolved to carry her back to the princess palace in your arms even though you knew it would mean being punished, and the heart-throbbing

suspension bridge effect of that moment causes love to bloom between us... I can see something like that happening, but I still think it would be too risky.”

Such fantasies come easily to Marianne, perhaps because she thinks about them on a regular basis.

The third princess has repeatedly proven to be more difficult to deal with than Allen first thought.

“But isn’t the pattern of falling in love from that kind of development usually on the woman’s side, not the man’s?”

“Hoh... Bodyguard-san knows quite a bit about romance. However, have you considered this kind of pattern? When you princess carry a girl you thought of only as a child, you’re surprised to realize she has developed an awfully grown up body. Unable to deny that she is a woman, you can no longer suppress your lust for her...”

“No, that’s not truly love, it’s just arousal...”

“Isn’t that what a man’s love is though?”

It’s hard to believe such a cold statement is coming from someone that was so delusional just a short time ago.

Perhaps unable to watch Marianne behaving like this...

“Marianne-sama, you’ve lost sight of your goal of seducing him, haven’t you?”

...Rosa leans down and softly whispers to her.

Marianne’s spine shivers in response to the sudden voice in her ear.

“I-I know that! For now, Bodyguard-san, please watch Maria-chan’s lonely profile as she watches wild birds, and become smitten with her!”

“That’s an absurd request...”

Marianne, ignoring Allen's complaints, picks up a pair of opera glasses.

It seems that she's serious about spending her time bird-watching.

"It was Rosa's idea to have a change of scenery, but... Hyaah!?"

Marianne suddenly lets out a crazy noise.

She pulls the opera glasses away from her face and turns to Allen and Rosa.

"On the other side of the lake! There's a suspicious person over there!"

"Pardon me."

Allen takes the opera glasses from Marianne's hand and peers through them.

In the woods on the other side of the lake, he can make out a pair of men holding a photographic camera. They are wearing caps and bulky coats that hide their features and make the pair look very suspicious.

The pair appear to be checking the photos they had taken, apparently unaware that they themselves are being watched.

"Bodyguard-san, run after them! They're definitely suspicious!"

"Right away. Rosa, take care of Marianne-sama!"

"Big brother, just in case!"

Rosa hands him one of the two rapiers from her waist.

Allen takes it and runs downhill from where the rest area is located.

He keeps low so as to stay hidden from the voyeurs.

(Who are they? Journalists looking to expose a scandal in the royal family? Or were they sent by a rival for the throne who are trying to discredit Marianne-sama? Regardless, I can't let them get away...)

After carefully navigating around them, Allen is able to get to the rear of the pair of voyeurs. They are continuing to look at the photos and whispering to each other.

Allen pulls Rosa's rapier from its sheath and presses it against the back of one of the voyeurs.

"...That's enough! Don't bother resisting!"

The moment he issues the warning, the voyeurs start shaking.

Then, as if a coordinated move, both of their hats fall to the ground.

The identities of the voyeurs are two people Allen knows well.

"Diana and... Gabriella-sama?"

The duo of the first princess and her bodyguard raise their hands in the air, their faces pale.

Allen returns to the rest area with Gabriella and Diana in tow.

For now, he lets them sit down around the table.

Gabriella and Diana shrink down in their seats, looking completely dejected.

Marianne's mouth hangs open at the realization of the voyeurs' identities.

"No way, for Gabriella-onee-sama to turn into a voyeur... Well, it isn't too surprising really."

"Hah... What exactly am I in your mind!?"

"A criminal who threatened Elle's good reputation."

"Geh!"

Gabriella was just beginning to recover from the embarrassment of being caught when Marianne's insult knocks her back down, literally, as she falls face-first onto the table.

"Ma-Marianne-sama! That was too much!"

Diana protests on behalf of her mistress.

"Gabriella-sama and Elphilia-sama have already made up! I don't think it's right to hurt someone's feelings by bringing up something that has already settled! Please apologize to Gabriella-sama for that!"

"Mugugu... Y-you're right!"

Diana proves surprisingly persuasive, and Marianne easily backs down.

Rosa pats her on the shoulder.

"Marianne-sama, I think the first priority now is to find out about the voyeurism."

"Y-yes, I know! Both of you, why were you taking sneak photos?"

Gabriella and Diana do not immediately answer Marianne's question. The two only look at each other with uncomfortable expressions.

There must be certain circumstances that they don't want to reveal.

"Bodyguard-san, please search them."

"Yes, ma'am."

"Both of you, please take out your belongings and remove your coats."

"D-do we really have to do this? Can't you just let it slide?"

Gabriella's blue eyes are welling up as she looks up at him meekly.

Allen gently shakes his head.

Allen would prefer to avoid unnecessary disputes between the princesses, but Gabriella and Diana's behavior cannot simply be overlooked.

The two girls give up on that idea and put the camera and their heavy coats on the table, pushing them toward Allen and Rosa.

When they search through the pockets of the coats, they find dozens of photographs.

"Th-this is——"

After a short time, Allen has spread out numerous secretly-taken photographs on the tea table.

What is shown on them was...

"This is... All of them are of Allen-onii-sama!"

The person in every single photo is unmistakably Allen Brackish.

From one of his swordsmanship practice sessions in the courtyard of the princess palace. Another from a time he was helping the maids with their hard work. One of him wiping himself off after a bath. Each a private moment captured on film.

(This is.....)

Even Allen is at a loss for words.

When he was still in the Royal Order, he would sometimes notice people photographing him. He once even caught a merchant selling a bromide of himself without his permission, and even witnessed a girl buying it.

This time, however, the amount of voyeuristic photographs is far more than he had ever seen before.

In fact, as he continues to search the coats, the picnic table is soon totally covered with them.

(If this is the level of their snooping, then... Is there some special purpose to it?)

Gabriella's face turns bright red as she faces the huge number of photographs.

Worrying about her mistress, Diana is unusually flustered.

"Uu... uwah..."

Marianne's face twitches.

"This is indefensible... It's undeniably perverted..."

"H-Hold on! There's a good reason for this!"

Gabriella tearfully pleads.

"I'm... You know, I'm really good at art!"

"Is that so?"

"That's right! I don't only write romance novels, I designed the dress I'm wearing right now, I painted the self-portrait that's hanging in my princess palace, and I even helped design my princess palace in the first place!"

(Oh! I didn't know she did all of that.)

Allen thinks to himself. She also supports wine farmers, Allen has been learning about many new sides of Gabriella lately.

"But what does that have to do with the sneak photos..."

Marianne asks the question straightforwardly.

Gabriella folds her arms under her chest as she stands up from her chair and says...

“Using these photographs as a reference... I was thinking of carving a sculpture!!”

The only sound is the wind blowing over the lakeside.

Rosa whispers in Marianne’s ear.

“Marianne-sama, I think we should interrogate her to find the truth...”

“Bodyguard-san, please do it.”

“Gyaah! Please don’t! Don’t interrogate me!”

Gabriella drops to her knees and clings to Allen’s legs, her nose dripping with snot.

Allen, with mixed feelings, has no choice but to push her off his body.

“I personally don’t mind having my picture taken, but right now I am serving Elphilia-sama as her bodyguard and high-ranking interrogator. I cannot permit any act of spying on someone in such a position. I ask that you accompany me to the interrogation room quietly.”

“O-okay! I’ll submit to the interrogation!”

Gabriela accepts more easily than expected.

“In exchange... I have two conditions!”

“I’m listening.”

“First, you leave Diana out of it!”

When Diana hears the first condition, she grabs both of Gabriella’s shoulders.

“Something like that is... If you’re going to be interrogated, I’m going with you!”

“You were merely tagging along on my orders. Interrogating someone who doesn’t have information would only add to Allen’s troubles... right? Then I’m the only one who needs to be interrogated. Leave this to me as your mistress.”

“Ga-Gabriella-samaaa.....”

Diana buries her face in Gabriella’s plump chest as she sobs.

Gabriella gently pats the head of her subordinate, looking like an angel.

It is truly moving for Allen to see Gabriella, who used to hide behind Diana’s back whenever possible, grow up like this. But whatever his emotions, as a high-ranking interrogator he cannot afford to go easy on her.

“What is the second condition?”

“It’s... I don’t want Elphilia to know. It would be awkward between us if she learns that I was taking pictures of you... Whatever happens today, can you please keep it to only the people here?”

“But we won’t be able to use the usual interrogation room without informing Elphilia-sama.”

(What about Marianne’s princess palace then?)

Marianne shakes her head when Allen looks in her direction.

“There isn’t any room in Maria-chan’s princess palace that can be used for interrogation! Maria’s own room and the garden are protected by warding magic... It’s fine to use them to train Rosa, but using it to interrogate my own relatives is a bit.....”

Marianne’s feelings on the matter are understandable. In some cases, an interrogation can be a grisly scene.

Gabriella’s princess palace is also out of the question, since she is the subject of the interrogation.

“I-in that case...”

Gabriella’s face turns red as she voices her idea.

“Why don’t you just do the interrogation right here?”

It is a bold idea.

Diana is the first to object.

“Gabriella-sama, right here would be dangerous! It’s far too risky!”

“No one is allowed to come near this place without permission while it’s being used by a member of the royal family.”

“But...”

Rosa offers a suggestion as they argue.

“How about we keep watch ourselves?”

“Well, yeah... That might actually work.”

Marianne also gives her agreement.

“Fufufu... This will be a good opportunity to give Gabriella-onee-sama a stern warning for always leading such a sloppy lifestyle.”

“Grrm... Marianne is the one who is being uncouth by forcing your hands on Allen! You are the one who is going to get hurt one day!”

“Un-uncouth! You’re the one who Bodyguard-san is driving——”

“Hmph! Hmph, hmpf! We-well, let’s get on with the interrogation, shall we!?”

Gabriella’s sudden coughing fit cuts Marianne off.

Diana, after seeing Gabriella’s determination, no longer has any objection.

(I never thought I'd be conducting a serious interrogation under only the blue sky...)

Allen braces himself and hopes that this unprecedeted interrogation will go well.

Allen and Gabriella remain at the lakeside rest area.

Marianne, Rosa, and Diana are standing guard a short distance away from them. Since the rest area is on elevated ground, they cannot see the others, but they are close enough to hear each other if they call out loudly.

Gabriella is acting nervous now that Diana is gone, and she is shivering in her chair. Allen can't help but pity her knowing that he is about to interrogate her.

"Gabriella-sama, let me just say one thing."

Allen, unable to bear the sight of her trembling, offers her a suggestion.

"I don't think you'll be able to withstand my interrogation."

Maybe you'll last a few minutes, maybe a few dozen minutes, but you are going to confess. So why should you have to put yourself through unnecessary suffering? Isn't that what you yourself told Diana?"

"Maybe that's true..."

Gabriella, who was just trembling, shows Allen a surprisingly calm face.

"But I have my pride as a princess and as Diana's mistress. I can't allow myself to confess without putting up any kind of resistance. I have to fight until I reach my very limit and show Diana that I didn't reject her help half-heartedly..."

It's admirable, Allen honestly thinks this. But he can't praise the person he is about to interrogate.

All Allen can do to support her is to give this interrogation everything he has.

“Well then, Gabriella-sama... No, Gabriella. You should get undressed first.”

“I-I knew that’s the first thing you would have me do... Fine.”

Gabriella stands up from her chair and starts to take off her favorite bright red dress...

...But when her hands reach up to her shoulders, she suddenly comes to a halt.

“What’s wrong? I can’t start the interrogation until you take off your clothes.”

“Ye-yes... I know, of course...”

Even as she answers, Gabriella’s hands remain still.

She’s already pulled her arms out of the sleeves, so the rest of the garment should be easy to take off. Nevertheless, she keeps standing still and keeps looking all around her.

Allen has a sudden realization.

“Are you worried that someone might see you... Is that why you’re hesitating?”

“Errm...”

Gabriella flinches, confirming Allen’s guess.

When members of the royal family use this rest area, the staff of each princess palace are ordered not to allow anyone to enter the immediate vicinity. Therefore, those who work in the princess section usually give the area a wide berth unless they have specific business there. But there are exceptions to everything.

Gabriella herself is an example of this.

No matter how low the probability, it will never be zero.

Gabriella's past deeds have come back around to haunt her as punishment.

(Does that mean that people cannot escape from their own sins?)

Allen feels like he has once again come to understand a profound truth of interrogation.

(Since we're in this situation, I have no choice but to make the most of it.)

Allen walks behind Gabriella's frozen body and speaks to her.

"We can't completely deny the possibility that someone is watching us. Maybe there's someone across the lake... Or hiding in the woods... Someone lurking around, watching you undress. In front of a man who isn't even your fiancé... What would they think if they saw you taking off your clothes outdoors like this?"

"Kuu... Even so... I'm taking it off!"

Gabriella willingly slips her dress down over her shoulders.

Two mounds wrapped in a crimson bra are revealed.

Perhaps it's because of the extreme tension... The two heavy globes glisten with sweat, looking like fruits covered with morning dew. Her bra, which should be protecting that fruit, has already absorbed so much sweat that it is nearly transparent.

The pink buds, her weak spot, are even visible, already hard and erect.

Sweat is running down her cleavage in large drops, and it seems as if steam is rising from her body.

"I-I'm not a-ashamed of this..."

Gabriella pulls her sweaty arms out of the dress with difficulty.

After being repeatedly caught by her dress sticking to her skin with her own sweat, she finally pushes it all the way down to her feet.

Her slender yet soft waist, her beautiful hips wrapped in panties that are just as wet and transparent as her bra, and her satisfyingly plump thighs... The majestic lines of her body epitomize the very concept of beauty.

The perfection of Gabriella's figure is so incredible that it is hard to believe that she is only a seventeen-year-old girl. Yet, her body does still exude the virility unique to teenagers.

This unusual situation where a girl who has not even reached adulthood is stripped naked under the blue sky. If it wasn't for the sake of the interrogation, Allen wouldn't have been able to bring himself to look directly at her.

"Th-there, I took it off!"

...Gabriella says, paying careful attention to her posture.

"I've already d-done so many embarrassing things in front of you! I've read my own romance novels out loud, and you've seen me sunbathing nude... Compared to that, being outside in my underwear is nothing!"

"Hmm..."

It seems that merely inciting Gabriella's sense of shame is not enough to prompt her to confess.

Then it's time to interrogate her from another angle.

Or rather, it might be better to say it's time to go back to the basics of interrogation.

"Gabriella, get up on the table."

"Fueh!? But... F-fine..."

As Allen instructed, Gabriella climbs up onto the tea table, which had already been cleared earlier.

The table is large enough for ten people, so it remains stable even with Gabriella's full weight on top of it.

(Looking at it... This scene is pretty perverse.)

Gabriella had only taken off her bright red dress. She is still wearing long gloves that go up to her elbows, stockings and a garter belt, earrings and a necklace, and her bright red high heels. In terms of eroticism, it could be considered better than if she were only in her underwear.

This is not like a situation where she is undressing to take a bath or to relax at home. She is clearly doing something embarrassed... She is aware of this, and she undressed anyway while fighting her feelings of shame.

When a person is forced to look shameful, they strangely come to believe that they are a shameful person. Gabriella seems to have matured more than before, as she finds herself in this very situation, and yet she somehow has managed to maintain her composure.

"Now, I'll start asking you questions."

"Wh-what are they?"

"You said you were planning to make a sculpture based on the photos you had on you?"

"Th-that's what I said..."

Gabriella looks away from Allen's question with embarrassment.

Of course, there is no way that Allen would be fooled by such a lie.

And if he knows she is lying, he has to make her admit it.

"Does that mean you know a lot about sculpting?"

“W-well yes... I have studied it, but I’m not——”

“Then, I’ll have you make a pose that would be good for a sculpture.”

“Ehh!?”

Gabriella’s eyes begin to lose focus.

The lie that she had intended to create a sculpture is coming back to haunt her.

The only way to cover up a lie is to paint over it with even more lies.

But once you get stuck in that quagmire of lies... It will always end in your doom.

Even if she understands this, all Gabriella can do is to step into that quagmire.

“I u-understand... Th-then, how about this♥?”

Gabriella opens her arms wide and puts her hands behind her head. She purses her glossy lips and smiles as if she’s modeling for a work of art, desperately fighting back her embarrassment.

“What is the meaning behind that pose?”

“Ehh!?”

Gabriella was clearly not expecting this question.

“That’s... it’s... Right! My armpits! I mean, look at my beautiful armpits!”

From the large beads of sweat running down her armpits, he can see that she is agitated.

Gabriella may know a fair amount about art, but it’s obvious that she is not that familiar with sculpting.

(This kind of improvised posing... It won't last long.)

Allen immediately follows with his next instruction.

"Next. Show me another pose that emphasizes a different part of your body!"

"...How... How about this♥ nmm... I think this is pretty sexy♥"

Gabriella first sits up, then bends forward and sandwiches her breasts between her arms. Her shapely and well-developed breasts are pushed forward to emphasize them.

At their tips, her most sensitive parts are asserting themselves, as if asking to be touched.

"Hmm, I see... and what is that pose trying to get across?"

"M-my... B-boobs♥ My boobs! This pose means 'Please look at my boobs♥!'"

"Hmm... But, if you want to assert your chest, wouldn't it be more effective to push up your chest. What is the point of squeezing them with your arms?"

"Eeh!? The point of squeezing my boobs!?"

Between Gabriella's shaking arms, her sweat-drenched breasts jiggle and sway.

"That's... It's... M-more... Sexy this way, I think..."

"I can't hear you very well. This is an artistic discourse, so you can say it plainly."

"Uuu... B-because... When I put my boobs between my arms like this, it feels like they are being squished together, which is more naughty♥ ...than just pushing them out♥ Sexiness and art are inseparable after all♥"

Gabriella manages to improvise more excuses.

To get her to keep digging herself deeper into her lies, Allen gives his next instruction.

“Next pose.”

“Kuu... Th-th-then, here it is♥”

Turning her back to Allen, Gabriella suddenly gets down on all fours, so that her butt is pointed toward him.

Her crimson panties stick to her skin with perspiration and as she turns they dig tightly into her hips like a hemp rope.

“Hahii♥ D-don’t tighten up at a time like this... Haaaa♥”

As Gabriella wriggles around, she turns her head toward Allen. He’s not sure if it’s intentional, but she seems to naturally be inviting a comparison between her beautiful face and her beautiful ass.

Gabriella tries her best to put on a straight face to show that she is not embarrassed, but the more she tries to cover it up, the harder it becomes on her body.

As proof of this, Gabriella’s sweating is extraordinary. Sweat that can’t be absorbed by her underwear collects at the base of her crotch and runs down her inner thighs to the table, where it is already forming a puddle.

“Th-this is... The female leopard pose♥”

“Female leopard pose? I’ve never heard of such a thing...”

“Of course, because it’s an original pose I came up with... nnm♥... It’s really biting into me♥”

Of course, Allen knows that Gabriella’s words are lies.

“An original... is it? You’ve come up with a good excuse.”

But he can simply keep repeating this process until she runs out of ideas.

“Now the next one!”

Allen asks Gabriella for new poses one after another.

At first, she is able to strike a new pose with each request.

But her response time quickly deteriorates, and she becomes sloppy in explaining the poses.

Armpits, breasts, butt, legs, neck, back... The parts of her body to emphasize are disappearing rapidly.

The scent of a woman, far from elegant, rises from her sweat-soaked body.

She starts to breathe heavily, her luscious, glistening tongue peeking out from behind her wet lips.

“Haah...♥ Kuu... N-next... pose is...♥”

Gabriella gets on her knees and lifting her left breast with her right hand and her right breast with her left hand.

Her expression is completely melting and drool is dripping from the corners of her mouth.

She still continues to attempt new poses, though her recent attempts can only be described as desperate.

“He-here...♥ This pose is supposed to...♥”

Gabriella makes a circle with her index fingers and thumbs and closes them around her own greatest weak point... She tries to pinch the pink buds that now violently push up the fabric of her bra.

After trying every possible pose, that was the only spot of her body left to use in her posing.

She understands that if she stimulates that place, it will be her loss.

Still, to prove to Diana that she didn't reject her assistance irresolutely, and to show that Gabriella, the first princess, did not give in without a fight, she pushes forward on her own thorny path.

"And here is... haah... I can't..."

Even seeing her resolve, Allen steels his heart and gives her another command.

"Say it so that Diana can hear out where she's keeping watch."

"...My ni... Nipples♥!!"

Gabriella screams with all the little strength she has left.

"Nipples! Nipples♥! The most sensitive part of my body♥! Sculptures... especially the ones in the shapes of goddesses and holy women... are usually extremely exposed♥ That's why I'm pinching my nipples♥ It's for the sake of art... That's why♥"

She draws repetitive, short, hot breaths.

A sweet, yet sorrowful and choking smell rises from her entire body.

"Look at meee... My... beautiful... lewd... noble figure!!"

Gabriella pinches the hard pink buds with all her remaining power.

"My... nipples♥ Haa♥ They've become so hard... so sensitive♥ Nn... more... to my limit♥ right in front of Allen's eyes... I... ahn♥ N-no♥ Don't look... If you stare at me like that... I'll... Nnn, mnn, Nnnaahh—————  
♥♥♥"

Her entire body arches as if struck by lightning, and droplets of sweat splatter all around her.

Gabriella, who had been sitting up on her knees, now falls onto all fours with her back raised.

Her breasts keep their firm shape even when she falls forward, and the tips remain hard and perky.

Her panties, which had absorbed more sweat than they can handle, cling and dig into her crotch.

“Nhaah... Haa♥ Naah♥”

Gabriella falls on her back into the puddle that has formed on the tea table.

It is a proud moment to see her fight all the way to the end and not ask for a single mercy.

“Haa... I made it... to this point... I’m glad...”

“Can you tell me why you were spying on me now?”

“Yes, I’ll be honest... The reason I was taking photos of you...”

Gabriella yells loudly once more...

“Is because I like... Allen’s face!!”

The three girls who had been keeping watch for them return after hearing her shout.

Diana arrives first and hugs her mistress who had fought so hard through the interrogation.

“I’m so proud of you! Gabriella-sama, you really gave it your all...”

“I worked so hard but I still lost.”

“But why is Allen’s face the only thing you said you——”

“Tha-tha-that’s how I really feel! I mean it!”

Now that the interrogation is over, Gabriella has regained some of her energy.

Allen offers her some words of encouragement.

“You worked hard today. Thank you for your honest confession.”

“I-I’m sorry... I’m sorry I caused so much trouble...”

“Indeed you did. But, I have to say that it doesn’t feel bad to hear you like the way I look either.”

“R-really?

“Next time you want to take a picture, please just say so.”

Gabriella’s body becomes weak after hearing Allen’s words.

Marianne’s face reddens, either from embarrassment or anger, and she shouts at Gabriella.

“Th-that’s such a poor excuse! You took all those pictures just because you like his face!”

“It’s no lie! It’s my honest feelings.”

Gabriella looks straight into Marianne’s eyes.

“You obviously just see this as a good opportunity to get me away from Allen... Well, it won’t work. You probably knew from the beginning that I was taking sneak photos, and then you intentionally accused me when Allen was here!”

“N-no, that’s not how it happened...”

“Since you’re my sister, I’ll give you some advice. I’ve heard you seem to like Elphilia so much that you are trying to keep Allen away from her... Even if Elphilia has a tolerant attitude, one day she’ll end up getting really mad at you!”

“Uuh... Uuuuuuh...”

Marianne's eyes fill with tears.

“Rosa-chan, we're going home for today! Bodyguard-san, thank you for the date!”

“Yes, Marianne-sama.”

Marianne leaves with Rosa following behind.

Allen, unable to find anything to say, watches her back as she leaves.

(Today didn't go as Marianne-sama planned. I hope that she'll take Gabriella's words to heart and not do anything unreasonable, but...)

Allen worries about the future.

Then...

“Phew... It feels good to burst Marianne's bubble once in a while.”

Gabriella looks rather pleased with herself and finally gets down from the tea table.

And just as soon as she does so...

“Now that I'm all covered in sweat, I think I'll take my usual dip in the water.”

...She boldly takes off her sweat-soaked bra and panties.

She is in her natural state, her whole body exposed to the wind that rushes across the lake.



She looks so comfortable that Allen forgets to say anything to her.

(Is she seriously going to bathe naked in the lake when I'm right here watching...)

This is something Gabriella would never have done before.

Diana rolls her eyes and tells Gabriella...

“Uh, umm... Gabriella-sama? Allen-dono is still here, you know?”

“...Eh?”

Gabriella's eyes dart around the gazebo, before landing directly on Allen.

Allen finally makes sense of her behavior.

She must have felt liberated after successfully admitting the secret she had been keeping bottled up inside her and then being able to tell off her half-sister, who had been behaving like a brat. After all that happened, she must have forgotten that Allen was around...

“Kyaaaaa—!!”

“Wa-wait up! Gabriella-sama!”

Gabriella runs away with only her underwear that she had just taken off.

Diana chases after her panicking mistress.

Rumors of Gabriella's habit of exposing herself outside circulated among the women working in the princess section for some time after that day.

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{TL: Gabriella's dress is described in this chapter as red, which matches the colored art back to volume 1. However, the text in volume 1 described her dress as gold. My guess is that certain colors got retconned when the art for the series was made, but the text was never updated. This would also

explain discrepancies with Marie's eye color from volume 1 chapter 2, and the design of Marianne's dress that I've been trying to translate my way around.}

# Chapter 11 - The Night of the Pajama Party

A few days after the incident at the lakeside rest area, Allen was summoned to Elphilia's room as usual.

Gabriella and Diana are also there when he arrives, along with Kurone.

"If you wanted a picture of Allen, I wish you would have just told me, onee-sama..."

"But telling you would have been embarrassing!"

Elphilia and Gabriella are sitting at the table enjoying tea together.

When Gabriella suddenly confessed her voyeurism to Elphilia, Allen and the others present were a bit taken aback.

Allen had assumed Gabriella would keep her mouth shut, expecting that even the mild-mannered Elphilia would become outraged if she learned of it. But Gabriella, again proving how much she had matured mentally, was willing to admit her feelings anyway.

In actuality, Elphilia did not get angry, but was as congenial as ever.

Allen was left in awe of her generosity and open-mindedness.

(Is it because she trusts that I will never betray my loyalty to her? If so, I couldn't be happier as a vassal. But as a man, I'd rather see her be a little jealous... No, no!)

A wild thought comes to his mind, but Allen quickly breaks off this train of thought.

All he needs to focus on is fending off Marianne's attempts to seduce him.

"I need to make very clear, it's just Allen's 'face' that I like!"

Gabriella has already stressed this point several times.

"Unlike Marianne, I would never touch one of my sisters' retainers! From now on, if I want a picture, I will ask for it openly. Before, I would have been too embarrassed to ask for such a thing, but after two interrogations, nothing is impossible for me!"

"It's quite a feat, Gabriella-sama."

Diana praises her mistress from the sidelines.

"Compared to when you ran around naked outside the other day, this is nothing to be afraid of anymore."

"Ugh... You don't need to remind me about that! I never thought I'd forget that Allen had just interrogated me and try to bathe in the lake like I normally do... I'm so ashamed of my carelessness."

"Gabriella-sama, please don't worry yourself about that."

Allen attempts to somehow console her.

"I am a high-ranking interrogator and bodyguard. I am trained to never harbor wicked feelings while performing my duties. If you want to get naked, Gabriella-sama, you can do so without worrying about my gaze. If you want, you could even do so right here."

"Wa-wait a minute! Don't make it sound like I'm some kind of exhibitionist!"

Elphilia looks dismayed when she hears Gabriella's words.

“Sunbathing with me... Did onee-sama not have fun?”

“Neh!? It-it-it’s not like that at all!”

“Allen too... Do you mind getting called here when we’re sunbathing?”

When Elphilia asks his opinion, Allen immediately and strongly nods his approval.

“Of course I don’t mind. You should feel comfortable calling on me whenever you like.”

“The preparations for sunbathing are always ready. You are free to do so at any time.”

Even Kurone says so.

Gabriella’s eyes are spinning with confusion.

“Nmooh! I can’t say no to you when you go this far!”

The sister princesses and their attendants enjoy the friendly conversation.

However, there is one concern that weighs on all of them.

“Maria hasn’t summoned Allen even once since then.”

It is just as Elphilia says. After her argument with Gabriella, Marianne had seemingly become disheartened and has stopped calling on Allen.

“I’m relieved she’s stopped trying to seduce me every day... but I’m worried about her getting too depressed.”

“That girl is such a pain in the ass...”

Gabriella leans back against the chair.

“Well, I feel like I went a little too hard on her. I’d like to get to know that girl better too... Elphilia, do you have any ideas on how to make up with

her? If possible, it would be best if it is an idea that can help that girl make some friends.”

“Let me think...”

Elphilia looks thoughtful.

Allen, searching for ideas, asks a few questions.

“I know that Marianne-sama is very involved in music concerts, and as a devout member of the church, she does a lot of community service, doesn’t she? Does she have any friends through those connections?”

“I’ve never heard of any... It’s hard for all of us to make friends in the first place. We are born as the ‘Princesses of the Kingdom of Virginia’. It’s rare that someone who lives outside the princess palace is unafraid of that title.”

Elphilia’s lonely gaze lingers on her tea cup.

Kurone mutters wistfully...

“When Elphilia-sama and I attended school, it was difficult to make friends who wouldn’t treat us differently because of our positions. All of our schoolmates were very fearful of us, and for the first few months even our classmates were hesitant to speak to us...”

“Even Kurone sometimes still acts a bit reserved with me though, don’t you?”

“Th-that’s not the case!”

Kurone denies it hurriedly.

Elphilia giggles and smiles, satisfied with her teasing.

“How to make up with Maria and introduce her to more friends... How about having a pajama party with everyone?”

“A pajama party... what’s that?”

Allen can't help but ask about the unfamiliar phrase.

(Why would anyone want to have a party in pajamas?)

He pictures a rather surreal scene of a high society party with the girls in nightgowns.

"A pajama party is a type of overnight gathering held exclusively for girls. Everyone lays out futons in one room, changes into pajamas, and stays up all night... When so many girls get together, it's not so easy to fall asleep, right?"

"I can easily imagine."

"When I was in school, we used to gather in one dorm room for pajama parties so often that the matron would never know where to look for us. Maria used to stay with me a lot, too, so I'm sure she would come if I told her I was having a pajama party."

Gabriella agrees with Elphilia's plan.

"That sounds great! I think I'm free tonight... Diana?"

Diana pulls out a small schedule book and checks it.

"Yes, you don't have anything scheduled tonight."

She makes quite the competent secretary.

"If Gabriella-onee-sama is okay with it, let's have the slumber party tonight then."

Elphilia is quick to act.

Kurone follows her lead and heads off to get things ready.

"Yes, ma'am. I'll start preparing to receive the guests."

"Oh, isn't Kurone going to join us too?"

Kurone, who was about to leave the room, turns around after pausing a moment.

“Eh?”

She fails to completely understand what she was just asked.

Diana, who is in a similar position, smiles at her.

“I’d love that! I want to see Kurone-san in her pajamas!”

“D-Diana-san, what are you saying!?”

Elphilia explains to Kurone, who is still confused.

“In the first place, you’re also someone who can be a new friend for Maria, aren’t you? Though, it would be troublesome to have you attend the pajama party as ‘the second princess’s maid and bodyguard’. So instead, I’ll introduce you as my ‘best friend’!”

“But... I have responsibilities as your bodyguard——”

“Why don’t you leave it to me, Kurone?”

...Allen says, seeing her hesitating.

“I’ll be on standby just in case, so Kurone can rest easy and join in on the slumber party. Elphilia-sama would be pleased with that too.”

Kurone, after being told this, is silent for a while with a complicated look on her face, before she finally says...

“...I understand. Allen-sama, please take care of things tonight.”

Kurone agrees to join the pajama party, which causes Elphilia to smile with delight.

“Then it’s settled. I have to send an invitation to Maria immediately!”

“I’ll go back to my princess palace and get ready. Diana, let’s go.”

“Right! Please excuse us everyone!”

Gabriella and Diana take their leave.

And so, the pajama party is about ready to begin.

There was some concern raised that Marianne would refuse the invitation, but in the end the participants gathered in Elphilia’s room as planned that evening.

The second princess and owner of the room, Elphilia.

Elphilia’s maid and bodyguard, Kurone.

The young wizard who maintains the warding magic over the princess section, Rebecca.

The novice maid and cat-type beastman, Marie.

The first princess and Elphilia’s half-sister, Gabriella.

Gabriella’s bodyguard and Allen’s junior as a knight, Diana.

The third princess and star of the show, Marianne.

Marianne’s bodyguard and Allen’s little sister, Rosa.

(Eight girls all together...)

No matter how spacious Elphilia’s room is, it became cramped with bedding for all eight people. The sound of conversations coming from all over the room doesn’t end, and even though the pajama party has not officially started, it is still a rather intimate scene.

And Allen is being forced to stay in such a space.

Elphilia had asked him to stay just until the party officially starts... A single man alone in this crowd is too out of place. If he could, he would return to his quarters as soon as possible.

The girls' commotion is getting more and more lively.

They are all dressed in their pajamas, but no one has any intention of quietly sleeping tonight.

According to what Elphilia told him, girls are always excited to talk about their love lives, but as a guy, he doesn't fully understand what has them so excited. All he can do is hope that he won't become the topic of conversation.

“A-lle-n-sama!”

Marie suddenly lunges at Allen where he is standing near a wall and hugs him.

Marie's pajamas are fairly simple, a tank top and panties, which leaves most of her body exposed, from her narrow waist to her slim legs. The loose neckline of the tank top offers a glimpse of what it should keep hidden.

The grin on Marie's face makes it clear that she is intentionally being provocative.

“You already know from all the times I've crawled into Allen-sama's bed, this is what I normally wear to sleep, right? I can't sleep unless I'm as close to naked as possible. I wonder if next time I'll make a mistake and get into your bed completely naked...”

“Do you want to be punished by Kurone again?”

“Uuu, I don't mind if it's Allen-sama that punishes me, but Kurone is...”

Marie moves away with her typical light steps.

Her education from the head maid seems to be quite excruciating.

Speaking of Kurone...

“Elphilia-sama... it’s so embarrassing...”

“It looks so good on you, Kurone.”

...Allen is surprised to see her in a babydoll matching Elphilia’s own.

The neckline is decorated with lace, and the quality design that hides any seams is both cute and sexy. The luxurious, ultra-thin fabric shows off all the curves of her body.

Elphilia’s is a mysterious lilac purple, and Kurone’s is a striking black that suits her tan skin. When put side-by-side, the two girls compliment each other’s allure.

“Allen agrees with me too, don’t you?”

“Huh, m-me!?”

Elphilia suddenly asks Allen for his opinion.

Allen stares up and down Kurone’s pajamas.

She seems unaccustomed to this kind of attire and her eyes become teary from her embarrassment.

“I’m happy to have matching pajamas with Elphilia-sama, but I didn’t think I’d have to wear them in front of everyone... I think these kinds of sexy clothes suit Elphilia-sama far more than me...”

Apparently, the matching outfits were Elphilia’s idea. Kurone does seem happy about it, despite her embarrassment.

Allen decides the right move is to compliment Kurone in order to give her confidence a boost.

“I think it suits you too, Kurone.”

“Fweh!?”

Kurone’s voice sounds uncharacteristically weak.

“That’s... It doesn’t look nearly as good on me...”

“You’re pretty tall to begin with, and you have a well-trained body. So I don’t think you look out of place at all when you wear luxurious lingerie like that. It’s okay to dress up a little cuter on occasion.”

“Huuuu...”

Kurone uses her hand to fan her bright red face.

“See? Didn’t I tell you so?”

Kurone is unable to respond to Elphilia’s question.

(I guess she overheated from being praised too much... I was just being honest though.)

As for the rest of the five girls, they all have their own personal styles that look good on them.

The one that stands out as the most flamboyant is of course Gabriella.

Just like when she was interrogated by the lake, she is wearing a set of crimson lingerie, now topped with a luxurious-looking fur coat. Of course, the front of the coat is fully open to show off her gorgeous body.

It could be considered inferior to Elphilia’s own petite and glamorous figure... She used to have that kind of complex about her body, but now she doesn’t give off that feeling at all. The dignified appearance she has now suits better.

“Elphilia’s sense of style is wonderful as always. Maybe we should have worn matching outfits as well, so that we wouldn’t be outdone.”

“Eeeeh!? I’m not... I wouldn’t look good in something sexy though!!”

Diana is wearing a frilly camisole and tight spats that show off the shape of her thighs and butt. It's the same style of pajamas that Allen remembers her wearing from their days in the Royal Order.

The spats hug her plump thighs and hold up her tight buttocks, giving the impression of a motherly figure rather than a well-trained, athletic one.

Diana turns around to look at Allen.

“Allen-dono, it’s been a long time, should I clean your ears for you?”

“Heh!? You’ve cleaned Allen’s ears for him before!?”

Gabriella is astonished.

“We used to do it for each other all the time when we were knights together.”

Allen thinks back to those old days.

He does want her to do it again... While he does think this, he's careful not to actually say it out loud.

It would be too embarrassing to have his ears cleaned in a room full of girls.

“U-umm... Allen-sama...”

Rebecca calls out to him from behind.

She is wearing pajamas with a hood that includes long, thin ears, making her look like an adorable bunny wearing it. Her golden eyes are shining and she is looking up at Allen, which makes her seem even more like a small animal.

“This... I picked it out with Marie just for today...”

By just saying that much, Allen picks up on her intention.

“I think it looks good on you! It’s really cute.”

“Reawwy!?”

Rebecca is so happy that she accidentally bites her tongue.

She pulls her hood down over her face to hide her reddening cheeks.

“Umu, everyone is super cute! I want to take you all home with me!”

...Says Marianne who is carefully observing all of the girls in their pajamas.

She herself is wearing a nightgown that covers everything down to her wrists and ankles. Perhaps it is because her frail health leaves her sensitive to the cold, or perhaps because she values her chastity as a member of the church. It looks to be made of silk the way it shines luxuriously all over.

Marianne, who is supposed to have been depressed, is in a much better mood after being invited to the pajama party. It seems that she is not only interested in Elphilia, as she is looking all around at the other girls in their pajamas.

(I guess this means we don't have to do anything special for her to get along with everyone.)

Allen feels relieved.

And finally, there's Rosa.

“Are you Allen-sama's little sister?”

“Uh, umm... Please be friends with us!”

Marie and Rebecca are quick to talk to her.

Rosa is wearing a men's dress shirt. It is baggy and the sleeves are too long, but the hem exposes her slender thighs, and if it were raised even a little bit, her underwear could be seen.

As an older brother, Allen cannot help but feel uncomfortable when he sees his beautiful sister in her underwear.

Rosa, perhaps understanding what her brother is thinking, sends a teasing glance in his direction.

“Yes, I’m Allen’s sister, Rosa. Thank you very much for taking care of my brother.”

Rosa bows politely to Marie and Rebecca.

“No, no, we’re the ones who are always being helped by him!”

Marie panics from receiving such a polite greeting.

“I’m just a maid, so you don’t have to worry about me at all!”

“And… And I’m just a normal student. I’m only allowed to live here out of Elphilia-sama’s courtesy!”

Rebecca is just as surprised.

“I’m new to the princess section and don’t know many people here, so I’m glad you all are willing to be my friends. If you don’t mind, I would like to hear how my brother is doing here.”

“Yeeess! We want to hear old stories about Allen-sama too!”

“Ah, umm… Is that shirt, a hand-me-down from Allen-sama by any chance?”

“I’m impressed you noticed!”

Rosa nods at Rebecca’s question.

“When I wear this shirt, I feel safe and secure, like I’m being wrapped in my brother’s arms…”

“S-so nice! I want to wear it too!”

“Nyanya... So this is the privilege of a little sister... It’s an abuse of power!”

Rebecca and Marie are extremely envious of her.

(Although, I don’t remember giving Rosa any hand-me-downs.....)

Anyway, Allen really wants to leave before they start telling stories about him.

Allen turns to Marianne again...

“I’m sorry about the other day.”

...Just in time to hear Gabriella getting to the heart of the matter.

“I got too worked up at the time and said far too much. As your sister, I just wanted to give you a proper warning, but my anger made me talk down to you instead... It really wasn’t right of me to do that. So, I’m sorry.”

“N-no-not at all, Gabriella-onee-sama!”

Marianne tearfully accepts her oldest sister’s apology.

“I was the one who got carried away and was too eager to expose onee-sama’s secret... I didn’t listen to your warning and... I’m really sorry!”

Rebecca and Marie react audibly...

“What secret?”

...But after reading the atmosphere, they decide to return to chatting with Rosa.

“It’s alright, Marianne. I want to make up with you.”

“Yes, that’s what I want, too!”

Gabriella spreads her arms wide, welcoming Marianne for a hug. Her perfect breasts wrapped in her bra sway softly.

“Gabriella-onee-samaaa!”

Marianne can’t hold herself back from jumping into Gabriella’s chest.

Gabriella pats her tearful sister’s head.

“I’m so glad Maria understood.”

Seeing such a scene, Elphilia strokes her chest with relief.

“Hey, Maria. None of the people here are trying to take me away from you, okay? They all want to be friends with you. Of course, that includes Allen too.”

Allen broadly nods his agreement.

Though he is in part agreeing because he wants to avoid any more unnecessary trouble, Allen also has to admit that he likes Marianne’s personality. Despite the fact that she was born with a poor constitution, she is always working hard and trying her best, so he honestly wants to support her.

“I know... I know that much.”

Marianne looks up from Gabriella’s chest.

Her expression is complicated... Confusion, but even more so fear.

“But Elle is very special to me... It’s fine if it’s a girl, but when I think of a man getting friendly with Elle, I lose control of myself... I know I shouldn’t, but.....”

“I know how hard it is to change yourself. Let’s all move forward slowly, hand in hand with each other.”

Elphilia gently grabs Marianne’s hand.

“Thank you.....”

...Marianne happily murmurs, before turning to Allen.

“Bodyguard-san, I’ve caused you a great deal of trouble. I don’t think it would be right to ask for your forgiveness, but——”

“Please don’t worry about it, Marianne-sama.”

Allen is surprised to hear something so out of character for Marianne.

“Elphilia-sama and Marianne-sama getting along with each other... That’s the best situation for me too. And I feel more at ease when Marianne-sama has a confident smile on her face. It’s what suits you best.”

“Muu... E-e-even if you try to flatter me, it won’t work!”

Marianne turns her back to Allen.

But she wasn’t completely able to hide the grin on her face.

“Rosa, let me ask you once again to take good care of Marianne-sama.”

“Of course, big brother.”

Rosa replies with a sharp expression on her face.

It would look more impressive if she didn’t follow it up by sticking her nose into the cuff of her shirt and sniffing it.

(As far as I’m concerned, Rosa is the one who needs to give me some more space.)

Rosa finally stops sniffing the shirt and stands up tall to whisper into Allen’s ear.

“I just hope that Marianne-sama’s feelings won’t get out of control again...”

Allen also speaks in a low whisper.

“I realize that it probably won’t go on like this. But even if she does something out of the blue, it’s not like she’s going to do anything criminal. If she tries to seduce me again, I can just act like I’m playing along with a friend’s joke.”

“As for me, if it means I get more opportunities to see my big brother——”

“Oi, oi, you should think carefully about what you’re about to say.”

Rosa sticks out her tongue, like it was just a joke.

(With this girl, you never know how serious these jokes of hers are.)

Allen is thinking about giving her another lecture later, when Marianne catches his attention again.

“You must be Rebecca! Hmhmm... I heard about you from Elle, that you only look like a real elf... Can you tell me later how you do your makeup? Or better yet, could you make me look like an elf too?”

“O-of course I will! I’d love to do Marianne-sama’s makeup!”

Marianne is immediately relaxed around Rebecca, even though this is their first time meeting.

She’s always in a cheerful mood and her communication skills are apparently very good.

(She doesn’t seem to be shy at all... If she wasn’t in such an isolated environment as the princess section, she could have made a lot of friends, couldn’t she? If her health wasn’t so poor, she would have been able to go to school... No, it’s not too late to make up for everything she missed out on.)

“Hmmm... What kind of makeup would look best on Marianne-sama?”

Rebecca is so happy to be praised for her make-up skills that her mind races with possibilities.

“I think a traditional high elf with blonde hair would definitely look good with your natural fair skin. Oh, but a dark elf with silver hair and tan skin would also look good. Or, or maybe even a more modern elf style with pink or light blue hair...”

“Now, now, Rebecca! You can figure that out later!”

Marie calls Rebecca back from her imagination.

“Th-that’s right!”

“I heard that Marie is writing an adventure novel... I’m a book lover too, so please let me read it sometime. I’d also be happy to hear the story behind its creation!”

“Yes! Thank you very much! Ah, it’s so funny that our names are ‘Marie’ and ‘Marianne’.....”

Royal Friend Get! Marie can barely hold herself back from punching her fists into the air in celebration.

It seems that her desire to live more like the upper class hasn’t changed since she became a maid.

Meanwhile, Diana is mingling with Kurone.

“Kurone-san, let’s have a chat about our mistresses, shall we?”

“Eeh!? What? A-about our mistresses!?”

Despite her surprise, Kurone is clearly not uninterested.

“I-it would be my pleasure.”

...She whispers in a quiet voice to Diana.

“Aah, and one more thing!”

...Marianne shouts to all the girls present.

“I know it’s a staple at slumber parties, but please don’t tell me any scary stories! If you do that, Maria-chan here will hug Elle and never let go! But instead, you’re all welcome to tell love stories. I will share with you the lovey-dovey episodes between Elle and me.”

She is still bad with ghosts and horror stories.

Some of the girls seem to like those kinds of stories, so Allen could sense a slight air of disappointment.

(...Is it about time?)

Allen tells Elphilia that the time has come.

“Well then... I’ll move downstairs to the night duty room.”

“Yes, you may go now. Kurone’s staff will be taking turns on watch as well, so you can call it a day around sunset. We’ll try not to stay up too late ourselves.”

“Yes, ma’am.”

After saying this, Allen steals a glance at the tea table.

There is a large pile of snacks and herbal teas, so it looks like they are planning to stay up late. With eight girls in the room, there will be plenty to talk about over the course of the whole night. Allen expects that this will be at least an all-nighter.

“Then excuse me.”

“Good night, Allen.”

Following Elphilia, the rest of the girls wish him a good night and send him off.

As Allen leaves the room, he notices Elphilia's lonely countenance.

(Why are you showing me that kind of face when your pajama party is just beginning?)

The question comes to mind, but Allen can't turn back now.

As he closes the door to the room, the girls' voices become a little quieter.

The sound of the eight girls at the pajama party carries through the ceiling to the downstairs night duty room.

The room is where Kurone usually stays when she is on duty but not attending to Elphilia directly. There is a bed and a table, and if the writing desk was removed it would look much like Allen's bedroom. On the table, there are snacks and a pitcher of water, and beside them is a note from Kurone that says, "Thank you for your hard work. Please eat these if it pleases you."

(Her handwriting is surprisingly cute...)

While listening to the girls' voices coming through the ceiling, Allen gratefully munches on the refreshments and by the time the sun goes down, he lays down in the bed as planned.

By this time, the girls must have been getting tired and stopped making so much noise. However, there is still the sound of whispering and occasional laughing, so it seems they aren't all peacefully sleeping just yet.

Allen drifts off to sleep, listening to the faint sounds of their voices.

There is no sign of any trouble happening tonight.....

It is late into the night, probably some time after midnight.

Allen wakes up in the bed when he hears the door to the night duty room creak open.

(Is there a problem and Kurone came to wake me?)

His mind is still in a heavy fog after waking up.

“...Allen, can we chat for a little bit?”

Allen quickly jumps out of bed upon hearing the unexpected voice.

“Elphilia-sama!?”

“I’m sorry, Allen... for coming here so late at night...”

Elphilia is still dressed in the lilac purple babydoll. The design is see-through to begin with, but with the only illumination being the moonlight streaming in from a window behind her, the silhouette of her naked flesh stands out even more.

A princess in her underwear visiting a man’s room alone in the middle of the night... The unusual situation unnerves him for a moment, but Allen remains calm and asks...

“Is there a problem?”

“No, not especially...”

Elphilia gives a small shake of her head.

“I just had something I really wanted to talk to you about, so I came down after I made sure everyone was asleep.”

“I see. I don’t mind.”

Despite her words, Allen can tell that she is upset.

Trying to compose himself, he pours a cup of cold water from the pitcher.

“So... What did you want to talk about?”

Allen gets up from the bed and sits down in a chair near Elphilia.

Instead of looking at him, Elphilia looks out the window, watching the moon in the night sky.

“It’s about Marianne.”

“I was happy to see her doing well today.”

“Yes... Nowadays she’s so bright and energetic and can even exert herself for short periods of time. Back when I first met her she would get so sick that she would be bedridden for days at a time. When I would be away from home for a few days because of a school function, that alone would get her down, and when I came back home she would always hug me and cry...”

For Marianne, who had lived in a hospital in the Elf Village for most of her childhood, Elphilia was the first friend her own age that she ever made. The fact that she was a princess just like Marianne must also have been reassuring.

(Sickness starts with the mind... There is a saying like that. For Marianne, Elphilia-sama must have been the one thing that gave her strength to keep living.)

Allen recalls the last mission he went on as a knight, when he suffered the injury to his legs that led to his retirement.

At that time, his fellow knights took turns coming to visit him in the convalescent home. That’s what gave him the willpower to concentrate on healing his injury. If not for them, he would have given up on his life of chivalry.

(Then I was given new life by Elphilia-sama and avoided falling into despair... So what could motivate Marianne in the same way? Is it just a matter of taking her time? I don’t think it’s a problem she can handle all on her own...)

As Allen is thinking this over...

“I’d like to make a proposition.”

...Elphilia suddenly looks at him and asks...

“Would you be interested in marrying Marianne?”

There is a moment of complete silence.

“Huh?”

Allen can't believe what he just heard.

“Are you serious?”

“It's not a bad deal... No, wouldn't you say it's a rather good idea.”

Elphilia slumps down in her chair.

“She's likes to mess around with you like that, but I'm pretty sure she really does like you. She says she'll keep you locked away if you marry her, but she's not the kind of girl who could do such a thing. Maria is a sweet girl deep down...”

“I never considered that she liked me that much... But, even if that's true...”

Allen feels his body temperature rising.

“I already determined that I will serve Elphilia-sama with my entire life. As long as I'm still useful to Elphilia-sama, I have no intention of getting married or even dating anyone. This is the first time I've stated it so clearly, but I'm sure you understood this intention...”

“Yes, of course I understood that.”

Elphilia turns her face away again.

“But you know, I think Maria needs someone to support her... And it has to be someone other than me. As a princess, the day will eventually come when she will have to get married. If there is any man who can take care of Maria when that happens... I think it would be Allen.”

“While I’m glad that you value my abilities so highly...”

“I’m sure your parents will be relieved if you get married, so this isn’t a bad deal for you either. Maria will make a good wife and be very supportive of you. If you end up valuing family more than work, then I would be okay if \_\_\_\_\_”

“Elphilia-sama, stop.”

Allen unconsciously grabs both of Elphilia’s shoulders.

“Kya!? Wh-what’s wrong, Allen!?”

“I’m going to ask you this clearly. Is that what you really want?”

“Y-Yes... It is, but...”

“I told you I was committed to you for the rest of my life. Even so, you’re telling me to marry another woman... You’re even telling me to prioritize my family over my duties. Is Allen Brackish that kind of man to you!?”

Allen looks straight into Elphilia’s eyes.

Elphilia looks scared, like a village girl threatened by a demon’s claws.

From her expression and from her trembling body, Allen can sense the presence of a lie.

“Lies don’t work on me. You’ve already learned that with your body, Elphilia-sama.”

“I’m just... thinking about Allen and Maria’s happiness——”

“If I sound conceited, fine. But you’ll still need a high-ranking interrogator in the future... You’ll need Allen Brackish. All you’re doing is making up plausible reasons to lie to yourself... No, perhaps you don’t even realize yourself that you’re lying.”

Allen removes his hands from Elphilia’s shoulders.

Elphilia looks relieved for a moment, until...

“Please stand up. I’ll give you an interrogation now.”

...Allen says this and her face changes to one of sheer terror.

“Interrogation... A-Allen, are you serious!?”

“I’m serious. I will expose Elphilia-sama’s true feelings.”

Allen shouts forcefully...

“Elphilia-sama! No, Elphilia!”

“Y-yes!?”

Elphilia jumps up from her chair the moment her name is called.

She has already been reduced completely into a subject for interrogation. She is standing straight up and ready to pay attention to his every command.

Allen points to the writing desk in the corner of the room. The desk is as tall as Allen’s waist and has thick legs, making it quite sturdy.

“Put your hands on that desk and turn your hips outward.”

“Uuu...”

On any other day Elphilia would happily follow the instructions.

But this isn’t an interrogation she wants. This time she is not even aware that she is lying. Her justification is that she is doing this for Marianne’s sake, and for Allen’s... That sense of self-sacrifice has overgrown in Elphilia’s heart and is masking her true feelings.

So it Allen has no choice but to expose her hidden feelings through an interrogation.

“I-I’m sorry... that I mistreated your loyalty...”

“I don’t care about that. What concerns me is that you are unaware of your own lies. You don’t understand yet, so you think I want an apology, but that’s not what I’m looking for.”

“Hrmph...”

Elphilia, resigning to her fate, puts her hands on the writing desk as she was commanded.

The posture is undeniably a humiliating one, with her bottom sticking out.

She would usually shake her ass to provoke Allen at this point, but today she is clearly shrinking away from him.

“What are you doing?”

“Eh!? I-I’m doing what you told me to...”

“You have to take off your clothes before we can start the interrogation... That much should be obvious.”

Allen understands that what he’s saying is unreasonable.

In the first place, Allen never forced her to be in her underwear or naked when she had been his assistant during interrogations. It was something Elphilia had done voluntarily in order to show that she was ready to put her position as a princess aside for a time and get covered in sweat as a normal person.

(In order to expose her true feelings, I have to become a demon here.)

Allen says nothing else, but his silence exerts a pressure on her mind.

Elphilia becomes even more flustered when confronted with the outrageous demand.

“B-but... I’m already basically in my underwear... In the first place, it’s not like I have anything to hide from you.”

“Don’t talk back to me!”

Allen slams his palm down on the writing desk, causing a resounding noise like he had hit it with a hammer.

“Hiiii——”

Elphilia unconsciously lets out a short scream and hurriedly puts her hands through the see-through babydoll, taking it off.

“I’m doing it! I’m taking it off!”

In the faint moonlight her plump breasts and beautiful ass are exposed, wrapped in lingerie of the same lilac purple as the babydoll. Her slender, petite body further accentuates the womanly parts of her figure.

Her body, sweating from nervousness, gives off a lewd fragrance reminiscent of ripe peaches.

A woman born to be devoured by men.

She has the kind of physique that Allen can’t help but describe in that way.

“Ha..... Ha.....”

Elphilia puts her fingers around her panties and slowly pulls them down.

The beautiful mounds of her ass look like a full moon... And even the graceful thicket on her lower abdomen is exposed.

From there she pulls her panties down lower, and Allen can see thick beads of sweat glistening in the moonlight as they drip down her inner thighs.

“Haa... On... On second thought... Th-this is too much.....”

Elphilia quickly pulls back up the panties she had nearly taken off.

However, because they are so soaked with sweat when she puts them back on, they really don't hide much...

"You sunbathe naked on a daily basis, you happily stripped naked when washing Rebecca's body, and you are always willing to shed your clothing along with your princess status during interrogations... You've done these things before, but now you want to wear underwear while being spanked. Is that what you are saying?"

"Y-yes... Because it's... embarrassing..."

"Embarrassing, is it?"

Allen turns his coldest gaze on Elphilia.

(It's embarrassing to be seen naked by a man... This is another part of Elphilia's hidden, true feelings. Maybe I was a little too aggressive, but I was able to reveal a little bit of her true nature. Then the next step is——)

While Allen is considering his next move...

"I-I get it... You need me to prove my sincerity..."

...Elphilia gets down on her knees and bows her head until her forehead touches the ground.

Allen wonders what she is thinking. Everything from the top of her head to her smooth backside is exposed and defenseless.

"Pl-please... Let me... Keep my underwear on..... I realize that I've done it before when sunbathing and assisting with interrogations... B-but, I'm still ashamed to be naked in front of a man....."

It is an apologetic and begging pose that a princess should never make.

(I never thought I would end up forcing the woman who saved my life to get down on her knees in front of me...)

For the purpose of exposing Elphilia's hidden shame, having her strip down to her underwear should be enough. Allen realizes that forcing her to strip naked here could unnecessarily hurt her heart.

"I recognize your sincerity. I'll allow her to wear underwear during this interrogation."

"...Th-thank you very much!"

Elphilia looks up from the ground after receiving permission from Allen. Tears of joy stream down her cheeks.

The person who told her to get naked gave her permission to wear her underwear, and she thanked him for it... It's a cruel situation, but considering Elphilia's desire to be scolded, it seems only natural that it would end up like this.

Elphilia stands up and once again put her hands on the writing desk.

Her large, fruit-like breasts sway in her sweat-soaked bra. The pink bumps at the tips of her breasts are so hard that it looks as if they are about to rip through the transparent fabric.

Her panties, which she had hastily pulled back up, are violently digging into Elphilia's lovely hips as she thrusts her ass out, like a noose tied around her captive body, immorally accentuating Elphilia's excessive, feminine curves.

The smooth skin of her lovely backside is moist with sweat, like honey seeping from a fully ripened fruit. The nectar is so thick that it forms threads that trickle from Elphilia's inner thighs, and puddles are already beginning to form under her feet.

(I haven't even touched her body yet, but she's already in this state...)

Elphilia's limbs begin to tremble, making the sturdy-looking writing desk rattle against the floor.

To Allen's eyes, it's obvious that if he started the interrogation like this, she will soon lose the ability to stand on her feet.

“Let’s try something different.”

“Eh? ...Kya!”

Elphilia gives Allen a puzzled stare, when he suddenly picks her up and lays her on her back on the writing desk.

The writing desk is not large. Elphilia’s lower back is resting on the surface, while her legs hang off the front. The result is that her head is backed against the wall and she is forced to look forward.

(How about this?)

Allen grabs Elphilia’s legs and holds them up, stretched out perpendicular to the writing desk, like a hunted animal hung upside down from a trap.

As long as Allen keeps hold of Elphilia’s legs and hangs her vertically, she has no possibility of escape.

“No, no way... Like this, Allen and I are eye to eye...”

So far, she’s always been spanked with her butt facing Allen. But with this posture, they’ll have to remain facing each other.

Elphilia instinctively moves her hands to cover her face...

“Look at me. Elphilia.”

...but Allen’s command causes her hands to freeze.

Her body has become completely receptive to his orders.

Elphilia’s mind is further driven into a corner by her realization of this fact.

(...Okay, I’ll start by humiliating her.)

Allen carefully scrutinizes her foolish appearance.

“It’s not every day you get to compare a princess’s face and ass.”

Her face is dyed bright red with shame, while her ass is as white as the full moon without a single blemish.

The thought that he is about to turn her fair rear end just as red causes Allen's chest to burn with an immoral guilt. This girl that he should be keeping safe, he'll instead cause her pain... Even if it's for her own sake, if he doesn't maintain an unshakeable will of steel, he won't be able to get through this.

"Th-this... is too... e-embarrassing..."

"Why are you being so shy? Don't you usually like to show off to me?"

"I'm not trying to sh-show you off to you... Because I trust Allen, I just don't mind if you see me as I really am..."

"Don't talk back to me, Elphilia!"

"Hiii... I'm... I'm sorry..."

Elphilia's whole body becomes rigid. Both of her suspended legs go completely straight.

Allen doesn't miss the opportunity and spanks Elphilia's soft buttocks.

"Hyahii—"

A sharp sound like the crack of a whip rings out, and tiny droplets of sweat spray from the quivering meat of her ass.

A bright red handprint is left on her right cheek where the palm of his hand landed.

Allen can still feel the sensation of her pliant skin sucking on his palm.

"Fwaah♥ Wh-why am I♥ Feeling it more than usual...♥?"

Elphilia blinks repeatedly, as if her eyes are fluttering.

In the past, she has always stood on her own feet with her hands on the table while being spanked. Allen kept one hand around Elphilia's waist to hold her body in place as much as possible, but she still must have been unknowingly trying to move her body in a way to soften the impact.

However, in this position with her lying down on the writing desk and with both legs suspended in the air, there is no way for her to avoid the full brunt of the impact.

The result is a powerful jolt that runs through her entire body, from her ass where the electricity begins, all the way to her brain and toes, without a single mitigating factor.

“I-I..... I’ll become... s-stupid like this...♥”

“You’re going to become stupid, huh? It looks more like you already there though.”

Allen traces the reddened mark on Elphilia’s bottom with his fingertips, and even this slight stimulation causes her back to arch irresistibly.

Her full bosom sways in time with the movement. The way they maintain their perfect shape even though she is lying on her back makes them look like mounds of milk pudding served on her skin. They look even sweeter and more lewd the way they are dripping with sweat.

“Hyaa♥ A-Allen... Pl-please♥ Don’t rush me♥”

“Don’t misunderstand, Elphilia.”

Allen sighs heavily.

“This isn’t an interrogation to satisfy your cravings. I know you’re the type that will try to take pleasure in it on your own, but... Why can’t you be a little more aware of your own shamelessness? What kind of person indulges herself in pleasure while being questioned about her wrongdoings?”

Allen spansks Elphilia’s butt again.

This time, a second bright red handprint forms on the left cheek.

“Nnngghh♥”

In spite of Allen’s warning, Elphilia lets out another pleasured cry. Her red lips form a tight knot, and she tries her hardest to hold back her voice, but all that effort is meaningless in the face of Allen’s masterful spanking.

“St-stop...♥ Allen’s hands... Feel... too good...♥”

Drool drips from the edges of Elphilia’s glossy lips.

With just two strikes, her hips are uncontrollably wiggling and bucking.

“I’m feeling it more than usual, it’s too much... Even though you said I shouldn’t be feeling good, you’re making me feel way too good... Allen, you’re terrible♥ You’re messing me up so much, your own mistress♥”

Elphilia’s panties, transparent with sweat, dig more and more into her hips each time her muscles clench, further adding to the obscene appearance of her body.

Her soaked bra has nearly slipped off, exposing her pink, stiff buds to the open air.

Again, Allen runs his index finger over her bright red buttocks, tracing her curves with the tip of his fingernail.

An itchy, tingling sensation more intense than she expected from a single finger runs through Elphilia’s entire body.

“Hiiyaa...♥”

Elphilia bends and spasms as if she was being exposed to an electric current.

And again, Allen slams his palm against the defenseless weak spot of her body.

The momentum of the blow collides with that of her body's spasms, combining into the strongest force yet reverberating up to Elphilia's navel.

"Hyahii♥ Wh-what♥ was that♥?"

Without missing a beat, Allen delivers a quick series of spanks.

Elphilia's body bucks wildly causing the legs of the desk to rattle violently.

"I'm going crazy♥ I can't control my hips♥ Mnnggh♥ Haaa♥"

Heavy drops of sweat burst and spray across Allen's face.

The night duty room is by now filled with the smell of the sweat and excitement steaming from Elphilia's half-nude body.

For a time, the only sounds are the sharp cracks of flesh slapping against flesh and the short screams continually squeezed out of Elphilia's lungs.

(Drown! Drown in pleasure and expose your hidden feelings!)

Allen finally pauses and speaks to her, intending to push her even further.

"Elphilia, you're a weak woman."

"Haa♥ Haa♥ Huu, Hwaaa♥"

Elphilia, her face melted into a complete mess, turns her vacant gaze toward Allen.

"A-Allen..... What are you saying.....♥"

"You don't listen unless you're chastised this harshly. You're like a child who can't learn a lesson without being punished first. You might believe you are fulfilling your duties as a princess well, but you're just pretending. If I strip you naked like this, all I find is a weak woman who immediately loses herself to pleasure... That's your true self."

"Ah... N-no...♥ Don't say that, Allen♥"

Large tears begin to fall from Elphilia's eyes.

Her body is still racing with ecstasy while her mind is in anguish.

This contradictory feeling shatters the common sense and pride that Elphilia has been protecting.

"You want to help Marianne-sama... Because she's your good friend. You're thinking of your retainer's future... So it's fine to sacrifice yourself. However, those are just solutions that let you masquerade as a respectable princess. In fact, they're textbook answers from a model student."

"Ah♥ ah♥ That's not... That's not...♥"

Allen continues relentlessly hurling accusations at her.

"Tell me the truth, Elphilia! What kind of a person are you? What do you really want?"

"I-I am... I am——"

Allen's aims another slap at Elphilia's red ass again.

"Nnnnggghh♥"

Instantly and decisively, her eyes are dyed with pleasure.

"I am... Elphilia is...♥ A child who loves to be scolded♥ I'm a bad girl♥"

"Good, be more honest!"

"I really♥ Really♥ Don't want Allen to leave me♥ But♥ I don't know what to do... About Maria♥ I can't stop thinking that she might take Allen from me... Ah♥ Ah♥"

Elphilia, who had been so reluctant to show her face, now looks straight up at Allen. From her tear-stained eyes, there is not one hint of the dignity of a princess or the reasoning of a model student.

The eyes of a baby seeking its mother's milk would be a more accurate way to describe her.

The eyes of the weakest, most pitiable creature in the world, but one who is more honest in its desires than any other.

"I... don't want Allen to leave me♥ Please scold me more♥ Please make me feel good♥ Please stay with me forever♥ No matter how pathetic I look, keep watching over me to the very end♥ I can only tell my honest feelings to you♥ I can't even share them with Kurone or any of my other friends♥ Please♥ Don't let me go♥ Stay with me forever~~~~~♥♥♥"

Elphilia's heartfelt pleas shake the moonlit night duty room.

Even though Allen has finally stopped his hand, she is still frightened and shaking all over.

"Finally... you were able to tell me how you really feel."

Allen squeezes his aching right hand. His left arm that had been lifting Elphilia's legs is also heavy with fatigue.

Ignoring his exhaustion, Allen takes up Elphilia in his arms and carries her to the bed he had been using.

"I'm happy to hear your honest feelings on this matter!"

Allen kneels down on the spot.

"As for my punishment for doubting Elphilia-sama's wishes and even putting you under interrogation... I am willing to accept anything you decide! Please pass judgment on me for my disrespect!"

Even though he had no choice but to interrogate her, there is no denying that it was an extreme way to go about it.

Allen is keenly aware of his own shortcomings in this area.

"Haa♥ Nnn♥ Haaah♥ Huu... Huu..."

Elphilia's breathing is still heavy. Her voluptuous breasts, which look ready to spill out of her bra, are slowly moving up and down.

Even though she had been tortured so intensely, she feels refreshed, as if she had just finished working out. After all the sweating and having her heart and spirit shattered to pieces, she is strangely at peace now.

“Punish you... Fufuu... I would never do that, Allen♥”

Elphilia runs her fingers over her sweat-covered body. It is as if she is inspecting all the vulnerable parts of her body, to make sure they haven't fallen apart after her heart had exploded with all the emotions she could contain. Whenever she reaches a sensitive part of her body, her cheeks blush with happiness and she lets out a sweet moan.

“It's exactly as you said... I'm a really weak person. I really do want to help Maria, but the only way I could think of to help her was to lie about my feelings, and then I tried to drag you into it. It proves what an immature person I am.”

“Elphilia-sama can become strong. Now that you understand your own immaturity.”

Allen holds Elphilia's hand to cheer her up.

Compared to his own hand, it is too small and unreliable.

However, Allen doesn't think Elphilia's hand is unworthy of a princess.

Her weakness is only natural for a girl of her age.

“Besides... As humans, we can never completely eliminate our weaknesses. That's why we need help from the people around us. Even I wouldn't be able to maintain the strong convictions I have now if I lost Elphilia-sama.”

“Hearing that... makes me feel relieved...”

Elphilia starts to doze off.

“Allen... Don’t ever... leave me...”

“I won’t, Elphilia-sama. I promise.”

“Mmm... Thank... You...”

Elphilia falls asleep.

She has used up all of her physical and mental strength.

Allen kneels by her and watches her peaceful, sleeping face.

# Chapter 12 - Marianne's Graduation

A few days have passed since the pajama party.

Since then, Marianne still hasn't made any new attempt to seduce Allen.

While that should be a relief, she has in fact not been seen at all since that time. It is impossible to know if she is just being quiet or if she has become depressed again.

(Should I go visit her?)

Allen considered doing so many times, but it would cause more problems if he finally went to check on her and she said "Fufufuu... So you couldn't stand it any longer and came to see Maria-chan here! They say if you can't push, try pulling, but I can't believe you fell for it so easily... As expected, Maria-chan is a master of romance!"

But after coming to an understanding with Elphilia and Gabriella at the pajama party the other night, it was hard to believe that she would do anything drastic.

Ultimately, Allen decided to wait for Marianne to make a move first.

Later that evening, Allen and Rebecca went to the library in princess palace.

The library is lined with numerous magnificent bookshelves that reach to the ceiling and boasts a massive collection of books that far exceeds those belonging to the kingdom's schools.

From what Allen had heard, Elphilia has read through most of the books in the library.

Allen, too, is a lifelong reader and regularly borrows a stack of books at a time to read, but only the ones that seem interesting to him.

Rebecca uses the library more than Allen, though exclusively to do research for her school assignments.

“It’s quite an advanced assignment to be researching national policies, isn’t it?”

The library is also furnished with a few desks and chairs for people to use.

Allen is sitting alongside Rebecca, helping her with her assignment.

Rebecca had come here after school, so she is still wearing her school uniform.

“Yes... I was thinking of asking Elphilia-sama at first, but she is always so busy and... Oh! S-sorry! It’s not because Allen-sama looked bored or anything like that...”

“Don’t worry about it. The fact that I’m not busy is proof that things are peaceful.”

Allen smiles good-naturedly.

“And I’m happy to be able to help you, Rebecca.”

“Fwah!?”

Rebecca blushes.

She glances sideways at Allen, her thighs squirming together.

“I-I’m also happy, that Allen-sama was nice enough to help me♥”

Because her elf ears are fake, they don't change color or move, but seeing Rebecca's joy, it seems as if they might start twitching at any moment. Being able to make her that happy makes Allen happy as well.

"Well, let's get started on the assignment."

Rebecca's assignment is about the Royal Order of Knights.

In order to curb the damage caused by monsters and bandits, the king of Virginia had implemented policies to strengthen the military, including the Royal Order of Knights. The active recruitment of female members, like Diana and Rosa, is one of these policies.

Allen remembers that he was treated very well under these policies, as they provided him with high-quality equipment, increased his salary well beyond what he made when he was a regular soldier, and guaranteed him an income once he retired. Thanks to all of this, he had no worries about his life and was able to devote himself diligently to his work as a knight.

(I wish the king a speedy recovery...)

Allen has heard rumors that the king has recently recovered somewhat, but his physical condition is still far from perfect.

It still remains to be seen who the king will choose as his successor. Will it be Gabriella, the first princess, as is customary for the Kingdom of Virginia, or will it be Elphilia or one of the other princesses?

Thinking back on recent matters, one thing that has come out of this latest episode is that they now know that Marianne has no intention of getting involved in the succession battle.

(Now we just have to hope that Marianne-sama's obsession with Elphilia will be cured.)

As Allen is thinking about this...

"Aaah! It hurts!"

...Marie comes running into the library with such force that she accidentally crashes into one of the heavy wooden shelves.

She appears to be in a great hurry, and her headdress is about to slip off her head.

“Allen-sama! Come with me!”

“What’s wrong?”

“Just come on! Rebecca should come too!”

“O-okay!?”

Allen and Rebecca rush out of the library, following Marie.

As they run after her, Marie suddenly slows down when they reach a corner of the hallway. Allen and Rebecca slow to match her pace, and together the three turn around the corner.

“It feels kind of like we’ve become detectives...”

Rebecca is thrilled by the strange sense of urgency.

Allen is a fan of mystery novels, so he understands how she feels.

“Over there!”

Marie whispers and points ahead at a maid walking down the hallway away from them. When she turns the next corner, they catch a brief glimpse of the maid’s profile.

“...Rosa!?”

Allen is startled to see someone unexpected.

But there is no mistaking that it is Rosa, disguised as a maid.

The uniforms of the maids differ from one princess palace to another, so it's certain that the uniform Rosa is wearing belongs to Elphilia's princess palace. In other words, she is sneaking around the princess palace disguised as a member of the staff.

"I was so surprised when I saw her from far away! Allen-sama, did you know that Rosa was coming here? We maids didn't hear that there would be any visitors..."

"No, neither did I..."

Even though Rosa is Marianne's bodyguard, she is not allowed to enter another princess palace without advanced notice and approval. If Elphilia, the owner of the princess palace, and Kurone, the head of staff are not present... She would have to get permission from Allen.

(This isn't going to turn out to just be a prank...)

Allen can't bring himself to express his unease to the other two as Rosa continues to move further from the heavily populated areas of the princess palace.

He thinks about calling out to her, but he is concerned about her objectives after all, so he continues following some distance behind her.

And that's how Rosa ends up at that place...

"This is... Allen-sama's room, right?"

They arrive at a remote corner of the princess palace where the maids do not often visit.

Rosa takes a key from her pocket and unlocks the door.

Did she make a duplicate key or did she steal the master key? Either way, what she is doing is well beyond a prank.

Rosa enters Allen's room after briefly checking the surroundings.

Rebecca and Marie look at each other, the blood drained from both their faces.

“Could this possibly be...”

“Is she here to steal her big brothers personal effects?”

The two of them seem to be aware of the problems with Rosa’s personality.

Actually, there is very little she could steal that couldn’t be easily replaced.

“Let’s wait a bit before we go in.”

...Allen suggests in a whisper.

Allen quietly creeps up to the door and puts his ear against it to listen.

From inside the room, he hears a rustling sound like someone rummaging around.

Rebecca and Marie, who had approached with him, audibly gulp.

“...Okay, we’re going in.”

Allen pushes open the door and rushes into his bedroom.

“Rosa, what are you doing in here!?”

“HyaaaaAAAH!”

Rosa screams and jumps up in surprise.

The object in her hand falls to the floor.

Marie immediately dives in head first and secures the object on the floor.

“Hmm? This is...”

A pair of women's panties. Made of an ultra-thin fabric. And lilac purple colored.

The three instantly recognize them.

Rebecca's face turns bright red and she shouts...

"Isn't that... Elphilia-sama's underwear!?"

"Rosa, what the hell are you——"

Before Allen can finish asking the question...

"I'm... I'm suh... sorry...!"

...Rosa flops down on the floor and begins to wail.

Behind her, Allen's closet is open. A spare guard uniform is hanging there, and a handkerchief has been pulled out of the pocket. Considering that she had brought Elphilia's underwear with her, the situation doesn't look like a simple handkerchief theft.

Allen squats down and asks Rosa...

"So, what were you planning to do?"

"Uuu..."

Rosa looks down at the ground and confesses.

"I was planning to steal Elphilia-sama's underwear from the maids' laundry room and slip it into Allen-onii-sama's uniform. I thought that if big brother accidentally took out Elphilia-sama's underwear when he tried to take out his handkerchief, I could create an argument between the two of you....."

"Who put you up to this? Did you plan this yourself?"

"It was Marianne-sama's... instructions..."

Rebecca and Marie look at each other again.

Allen honestly couldn't believe it.

Marianne had clearly changed that day when the pajama party took place... At the very least, she had been willing to reconcile with Elphilia and Allen. It is unfathomable that she would suddenly plan this kind of sabotage now, when she hadn't done anything like this before.

Yet, it is also hard to believe that Rosa would make up a lie like this. After all, Rosa was promised that if Marianne is able to marry Allen, she would be able to do whatever she wants with him after he has been put into captivity. Rosa's best interest should be to protect Marianne.

(I should be able to find out the truth by asking Marianne...)

This could turn into a full-scale interrogation.

The thought of it makes Allen nervous.

"This underwear is really sexy..."

"A-a-amazing... If I wore something like this, would it look good...?"

Marie and Rebecca are intently studying Elphilia's underwear.

Seeing the two of them so carefree makes Allen feel a little calmer.

It was after dark when Marianne agreed to meet with them.

Allen and the others asked Marianne what had happened, but she insisted that there had been some kind of misunderstanding, despite Rosa's confession. However, rather than blowing them off, she seemed to be in a state of desperation.

Of course, to Allen's eyes, it was perfectly evident that Marianne was lying. There is no question that she gave Rosa the order to drive Elphilia and Allen apart. All that is left is to get her to confess her role in it.

Ultimately, Marianne ended up transferred to the secret interrogation room in the basement of the princess palace.

(I never thought I would have to interrogate a third princess...)

Even Allen never expected this turn of events.

In the interrogation room, Allen, the high-ranking interrogator, Elphilia, who is assisting him again this time, and Marianne, the interrogation subject, are gathered.

The interrogation room is large and made of bare stone. The only entrance is sealed with a sturdy gate of iron bars. There are no windows since it is underground, nor is there any wallpaper or carpets, which gives the place the same kind of oppressive feeling as a large prison cell. The cupboards lining the walls are stocked with a variety of dubious chemicals and interrogation tools.

Gabriella, who had rushed to the scene after hearing the story, and Rosa, who had accompanied Marianne, stand anxiously outside the iron gate of the room.

Magic ore is used to light the room, so it isn't dark. The room is equipped with a bed in one corner, and has running water, so it would be possible to lock someone there for days if it became necessary. However, there is no toilet, so they would have to use a chamber pot...

“...So this is the interrogation room you mentioned.”

Marianne is seated in a chair that is placed in the center of the room.

When an ordinary person is brought to such an intimidating interrogation room, whether they have something to hide or not, it is normal for them to be nervous.

To Marianne's credit, she hasn't lost her headstrong attitude. In comparison, Elphilia and Gabriella were far more on edge during each of their interrogations.

“To dare to interrogate Maria-chan here... Bodyguard-san must be very brave.”

Marianne crosses her legs in her chair. Her face is flushed and her forehead is slightly sweaty.

It is obvious to everyone present that she is trying to act tough.

“I am so sorry, Marianne-sama...”

Rosa clutches the bars, looking pitifully at Marianne who while trying hard to maintain her confident tone replies...

“It’s no problem, Rosa! You just sit back with a cup of tea and wait for this interrogation nonsense to be over. Whatever the outcome ends up being... No, it’s definitely going to be a big victory for Maria-chan. So don’t worry, I won’t treat Rosa-chan badly after this, okay?”

“Even now, you’re still thinking about me...”

Rosa presses her head against the bars.

Perhaps taking pity on her, Gabriella gently pats her back.

“Marianne, I have one piece of advice for you.”

“What is it, Gabriella-onee-sama?”

“It’s better to come clean sooner rather than later. You’ve seen Allen’s training with Rosa, so you already know how relentless his interrogations are. You know that you can’t lie to Allen, and he will discover your weaknesses if you let your guard down even a little. To be blunt, you have zero chance of winning.”

“Thank you for worrying about me, Gabriella-onee-sama... But it’s okay.”

Marianne nods, maintaining her confident facade.

“What exactly is okay?” is the question on the minds of everyone present.

“Well then, I’ll be leaving. Elphilia, make sure you support Allen.”

“I’ll do my best, onee-sama.”

After a word to Elphilia, Gabriella leads Rosa away from the iron gate and up the stairs leading to the ground floor. The two were asked to wait in a separate room until the interrogation is over.

As soon as she hears the door close behind the two, Marianne lets out a loud sigh.

“.....Haaah!”

Then she suddenly realizes what she did and starts panicking.

“That sigh wasn’t because I’m feeling anxious by any means! I was able to prevent any unnecessary harm from coming to Rosa-chan... It was that kind of sigh of relief!”

The way she put her body on the line to protect her retainer reminds Allen of Gabriella, who protected Diana in the same way.

It seems that the princesses of the Virginia royal family are all very protective of their followers.

(That’s no reason to go easy on her, unfortunately...)

Allen confirms with Marianne.

“Are you ready to start the interrogation?”

“I’m good... N-no wait, I want to ask you for something first! I’m feeling a little nervous and thirsty, so could you please give me a cup of herbal tea! Maria-chan has a sensitive tongue, so please make sure it’s lukewarm, not hot!”

“If you need a drink, we have a jug of water prepared...”

“I don’t drink cold water because it makes my body too cold.”

This time there is no time restraint on the interrogation, so Allen decides it won't hurt to give her what she wants.

"Elphilia-sama, if you please."

"I'll ask Kurone. It will just take a moment."

The interrogation room is equipped with a speaker tube so that Kurone, who is waiting in another room, can be reached.

About ten minutes after Elphilia ordered it, a pot of lukewarm, but not hot, herbal tea arrives.

"You really like that blend of tea, don't you?"

"It's the secret to my health. I drink a cup each morning, noon, and night without fail."

Marianne is so thirsty that she drinks several cups of the tea until she completely empties the teapot.

"Now, let's get started."

Allen again announces the beginning of the interrogation.

"I'm going to treat you as an interrogation subject, so I'm going to call you Marianne starting now, if you don't mind."

"I don't like being addressed so informally by you, but... Well, I'll agree."

"With your consent, Marianne-sama... Marianne, let's get you undressed first."

"This is to check for evidence or hidden weapons, right?"

Marianne gets up from the chair and looks at Allen with a grin.

"Once my name has been cleared, Bodyguard-san... I will demand that you marry me as a punishment for your unwarranted interrogation, so be

prepared for that. Of course, you'll have no right to refuse, will you?"

"I'm ready for it."

"Grrr... You're still as unshakeable as ever..."

Marianne reluctantly removes the rosary from her neck. She places it on the chair with a high-pitched metallic clink.

"Hey... Allen?"

Elphilia suddenly whispers in his ear.

"I still don't understand why Maria would do something like——"

"She may have seen us meeting in secret."

Late at night on the day of the pajama party, Elphilia slipped out of her room and came to see Allen. Perhaps she was pretending to be asleep, or she woke up and realized where Elphilia had gone... Either way, it is a regrettable accident.

"I'm sorry, I was careless..."

Elphilia looks depressed.

A secret meeting between a princess and her male bodyguard would be an excellent source of blackmail. It's only fortunate that there is no risk of it being used against Elphilia in a succession battle.

(Whatever happens, I have to protect Elphilia-sama's future...)

As Allen is thinking about this...

"Umm... Can I ask Elle to undress with me?"

...Marianne unexpectedly asks for something.

“Even if you’re Elle’s bodyguard, I don’t like the idea of being the only one wearing my underwear in front of a man...”

“It’s fine. That was the plan all along.”

“Mmm... That’s reassuring...”

Marianne turns her back to Elphilia and asks her to unhook her habit-like dress, after which she is easily able to remove it.

What is revealed beneath is her ephemeral, feminine body. She is the thinnest of the sisters, so much so that if she arches her back slightly her ribs will show.

However, this isn’t to say she looks unhealthy or doesn’t look pretty. Her thin neck and clear collarbone line look rather attractive in fact. And her long, slender legs are probably the most beautiful between the three sisters.

What draws the eye more than anything else though is the pure white lingerie that is befitting Marianne’s innocent image and... The breasts and ass wrapped in that lingerie. Despite being so slender that her ribs can stick out, in those two areas she is surprisingly full.

“Fuu... Maria-chan here never thought she would be showing her underwear to a man while she is still unmarried. Well, not that I don’t have confidence in my body.”

Marianne lifts up the two fruits on her chest with both hands to show them off, shaking them softly. Combined with her fair skin, they have an appearance like milk poured into a spherical glass.

She has the kind of child-bearing hips that make men feel at ease looking at them, and her ass has a roundness that they can’t help but grab in their hands.

The shape of her body is motherly, and her vibrant skin and silk panties give her an almost goddess-like appearance.

Elphilia also takes off her dress, and uncharacteristically, she is also wearing pure white lingerie, which gives the odd sense of her and Marianne having paired outfits.

The only remaining sign of their different fashions is that Elphilia is wearing heels, while Marianne is wearing short boots.

“Fufu... Were you admiring Maria-chan’s lovely body?”

Marianne puts the rosary back around her neck, the chain fitting snugly in between her cleavage.

“Maria-chan, who hasn’t yet experienced her first love, let alone married, is showing her underwear to a gentleman for the first time in her life, you know. An opportunity like this doesn’t come along very often, so it’s fine if Bodyguard-san wants to stare until you put holes in them.”

Marianne strikes a pose like those from her idol performances.

When she looks up at Allen her gaze is provocative, but also calculating.

She brushes back her deep blue hair, causing the scent of flowers to waft through the air. It reminds Allen of the wisteria trellis where he had often met her.

“I’m glad that you are so cooperative. It will make interrogating you much easier. However, I should have told you earlier that trying to sweet talk or seduce me won’t get you anywhere. Of course, there is no way that I would make a move on anyone that I’m interrogating, so please don’t worry about that.”

It would be disqualifying for a professional to allow himself to be seduced by the subject of his interrogation after all.

That also means that an interrogator should never use means that would give himself sexual gratification.

This is a point Allen prides himself on as a high-ranking interrogator.

“Fu, fuun... Well, I would have been disillusioned if you had tried something like that.”

Marianne sits down in the chair and crosses her legs again with her right leg on top.

Her slender, beautiful legs are even more picturesque this way, enough to make men instinctively want to kneel down in front of her.

“First let me say, Maria-chan’s body is very sensitive. If you beat me a whip or drop hot candle wax on me, it will definitely leave a mark. That kind of hard interrogation is strictly forbidden!”

“I’m aware of that.”

When Allen finishes an interrogation, he makes sure to leave no scars on the body, or on the mind.

That is another point that Allen takes pride in.

“Do you see Maria’s weakness?”

...Elphilia asks in a whisper.

Allen responds in a low whisper as well so that Marianne can’t hear.

“Not yet...”

Just as when he first interrogated Gabriella, the strength of a princess’s heart cannot be underestimated. The first step then is to shake their hearts and expose their weaknesses.

(We’ve already made plans for that though...)

Allen pulls up chairs for himself and Elphilia to sit down.

Marianne tilts her head.

“H-huh? Aren’t you going to interrogate me?”

“Before we get to that... I want to tell you about this interrogation room.”

Allen speaks in a low tone of voice.

“This interrogation room was built about two hundred years ago.”

“That’s so long ago... I had no idea since my princess palace doesn’t have one... Haah... Two hundred years...”

Marianne suddenly looks uncomfortable.

As a member of the royal family, she must be aware of their history.

“Two hundred years ago was said to be the worst period since the founding of the kingdom. There was a wave of purges at the royal court, and the famine-stricken people revolted, only to be massacred. Countless people were killed at the hands of the queen at the time, who was also known as the ‘Vampire Queen’ because of a rumor that she drank the blood of those she executed mixed with wine.”

“She was the Virginia royal family’s worst ruler.”

“The Vampire Queen was finally executed by guillotine for her atrocities, but... Those atrocities actually began even before her ascension to the throne.”

“I-is that so?”

Marianne unconsciously leans forward in the chair. She swallows hard and listens intently to the story.

“I’ve heard that not much is known about the Vampire Queen from before she ascended to the throne, so...”

“Yes, but... A detailed record was stored in this very princess palace. It is a diary written by the Vampire Queen herself, from when she was a princess.”

Allen shows Marianne an old, thick book. The leather cover of the book feels like touching cold, human skin.

“From when she was a teenager, the Vampire Queen would bring girls into her princess palace and brutally torture them. She would lock the girls in the basement, sometimes for days, weeks, or months on end, where they were tormented until they finally died...”

Allen points to the cold floor.

“And the place where the torture took place is... This very room.”

“I-I knew it...”

Marianne’s face is tense.

Elphilia, who had been listening quietly up to this point, begins to rub her arms.

“Isn’t it... getting kind of cold...”

“B-but, that was... a long time ago, wasn’t it?”

...Marianne asks to try to reassure herself.

Instead of answering, Allen points behind her.

Behind Marianne... The bare stone walls are stained with black dirt.

In contrast, the rest of the room is spotlessly clean.

“Uh, umm... that looks... like a face...”

“This interrogation room has undergone numerous renovations. But that stain on the wall keeps coming back no matter how many times it’s removed. According to the queen’s diary, a girl was being tortured right in front of that wall. She was well known for her beautiful face, so the queen used her own hands to——”

At that moment, the lights on the ceiling suddenly begin to flicker.

The magic ore used for lighting seemed to be reacting to “something”.

“Eeeeeek...”

Marianne shrinks back in fear.

Immediately after, a glass bottle on the shelf falls to the floor, causing shards of glass to scatter across the floor.

“Kyaah!!”

Marianne hunches forward in her chair, clutching her head and squeezing her eyes shut.

“Something’s here...”

Elphilia whispers as she stares at into an open space in the room.

“Yes, they’re here...”

“They show up when I’m doing interrogations here. I guess they must be really lonely after being locked up in here and dying alone. They come to see the people who are interrogated here, thinking they are their friends. Occasionally, someone down here gets pulled into the ‘other side’ in that way——”

“O-other side... th-then... what’s going to happen to Maria-chan!?”

Elphilia silently shakes her head in response to Marianne’s question.

The flashing lights intensify, and a few more small objects fall to the floor and shatter.

Allen tells her quietly...

“Now then... Let’s begin the interrogation in earnest.”

“Pl-please don’t!”

Marianne, realizing what is about to happen, tries to flee.

However, she has no strength left in her limbs at all, so her legs immediately give out and her ass plummets back into the chair.

(Ghosts are... I know she said she couldn't handle ghosts, but this is worse than I imagined.)

The whole stunt up to this point had been his plan.

It is a historical fact that the Vampire Queen was a brutal ruler, but there is no actual record of her torturing people in her youth. That part is just a fiction he came up with based on some of the stories he read in the library of the princess palace. The book he claimed was the queen's diary is a prop that he chose because it looks old.

The stain on the wall was also prepared a few hours ago. The effect of the magic ore lights flashing on and off was achieved by Rebecca using her magic on them from just outside the interrogation room. Getting small objects to fall from the shelves was simple. Marie is hiding in the room and had knocked down prearranged items when Marianne wasn't looking.

"Umm, I need something..."

Marianne fidgets and rubs her inner thighs together.

"Before we start the interrogation... I, you know... Need the b-ba... Bathroom..."

"We don't have time for that. Just be patient."

"Wh-what are you saying!? A-after such a scary story, what if the interrogation takes a long time? I could end up l-l-leaking!"

"That's no problem."

Allen points to an empty glass bottle on the shelf.

"There's a bottle there that you can pee in."

"Hah, hah, hah, HAAAHHH!?!?"

Marianne screams at the top of her lungs.

Her face, which had been pale, turns a faint red.

“Th-th-that’s… Are you suggesting that Maria-chan, the third princess of the Virginia royal family, should pee into a bottle!? And, and… Bodyguard-san, in front of your very eyes!? Are you the kind of deviant that wants to see Maria-chan here’s urination scene!?”

“I’m not interested.”

Allen replies immediately.

The magic ore lights suddenly go out completely, bathing the interrogation room in pitch darkness.

“Uwaah!! Look, something bad is happening again!!”

Marianne’s scream echoes around the interrogation room.

This too is not a real supernatural phenomenon, but Rebecca’s magic extinguishing the light of the magic ore. However, only Marianne is deprived of her sight in the darkness. Allen and Elphilia had been enchanted by Rebecca to be able to see clearly in the dark.

(The timing of this total darkness is perfect… If she got too upset about the bathroom situation, the fear that we’ve instilled in Marianne could be wasted.)

Allen and Elphilia make sure they can see each other properly.

“Bodyguard-san! Elle! A-are you there… Hya!?

Marianne lets out a short scream.

Elphilia had caught her by surprise and breathed into her ear.

“J-just now… Something warm… By my ear… Nhii♥”

The sight of her trembling with fear in the darkness looks strangely similar to her writhing in pleasure.

(In literary works, women who tremble in fear are often described sensually... Indeed, when I observe her closely like this, I can understand why that kind of description is popular. Well, I can't approve of any hobby that involve frightening women for fun...)

Allen signals Elphilia with his eyes to continue.

The preparation of the props was left entirely up to her.

“We’ll start with this one.”

...She whispers.

The first thing Elphilia takes out is the metal necklace she often wears.

Dangling the necklace from her hand, she slowly brushes it across Marianne’s back.

“Fuah♥ So-something cold just touched my spine... Nnn♥”

Marianne lets out a sad and almost pained voice.

The darkness has cut off her vision, so her sense of touch is extra sensitive.

“Elle, you’re there, aren’t you!? No way, did the ghost—— Fwaah♥”

Elphilia’s torture escalates further.

She takes out a brand new quill pen and begins tickling Marianne with the feather end.

She tickles Marianne’s neck, back, sides, and inner thighs, tickling every sensitive spot she can reach.

“Nnaah♥ S-stop it... nn♥ Elle... I know y-you’re there... NnnaaAHH♥”

Marianne's back shivers violently as if she was being whipped.

Actually, Elphilia had just poked her in the side with the slightly hard nib of the quill.

Marianne's entire body is by now covered in sweat. Her fair, blue hair sticks to her skin, and her pure white underwear has become transparent.

"I-I'm not... s-sc-scared... Haa♥ Haaahhh♥"

The tickling sensation running through Marianne's body is multiplied many times over due to her fear.

Marianne's trembling body shrinks even further, and as she takes rough, repeated breaths her chest heaves up and down, causing her disproportionately large breasts to jiggle along with it.

Whether to withstand her fear or her urge to urinate... Marianne's movement becomes frenetic. Her inner thighs close and squirm together, her legs tense so much that her toes curl.

Elphilia tries to slow down the pace of her torture, but Marianne is already too restless...

"Ha♥ Ha♥ Ma-Maria-chan won't lose... Hiyaa♥"

Marianne is stuck writhing all on her own, even if nothing is being done to her.

The trembling of her body, the faint sound of her hair moving, the drafts of air, and even the cold sweat on her skin are all heightened for the sight-deprived Marianne. Her fright is too much for her mind to bear, and she cowers in a state of abject panic.

"B-Bodyguard-san, is it you touching me!?"

Marianne covers her butt and groin with her hands.

Allen, of course, hasn't touched her once.

“I’ll let you off the hook this one time, so please touch Maria-chan’s body here♥ In this darkness, you can touch me as much as you want♥ L-look... Please♥ Please touch me♥”

Marianne continues to writhe in sweet agony with sweat running down her body.

Her writhing is so intense that it looks like she could be being fondled by an invisible lover.

Clinging tightly to the chair, she looks upwards and takes a few hot, gasping breaths, then bites down on her lip to keep herself from screaming. Even with this effort, she cannot hold her panting from leaking out as she blushes and exhales feverishly.

“Haah... Huum... Heee...♥ Ahh, Aaaahh♥”

Marianne twists to the point that her neat, pure white bra and panties threaten to slip out of place. The bunched up parts of her underwear cut into her skin tightly, causing her even more discomfort.

“Elle... Bodyguard-san... He-help... Nhaaah♥ Haa, haa...♥”

Marianne is so flustered that she can no longer even speak properly.

Her face is melting from her fear and Elphilia’s tickling, and her wet tongue peeks out from her teeth as she feverishly gasps for air. She is far from her normal frail and innocent image.

(...It’s time.)

Allen signals to Elphilia again.

Elphilia takes out a small vial and drips the fluid in it onto her hands. It is the cosmetic solution that she had personally concocted.

She spreads it all over both hands, warming it up to the temperature of her skin, and then touches Marianne’s body.

“Ooh♥ Nh... Wh-what is... Haa♥ It’s gentle... Faah♥”

Marianne is slightly relieved by Elphilia’s soothing touch.

Her soft breasts, her unprotected back, her slender waist, her smooth and sleek butt, her narrow but meaty thighs... Marianne lets Elphilia’s touch wander as much as she wants into areas that she would normally be too shy to be touched.

“Elle... What are you♥ The way you’re touching me... I like it♥ Ah, ah♥”

Unlike the stimuli they had used until now to frighten and tickle her, Elphilia’s touch is gentle and soothing. Her soft touch, as if she was comforting a crying child or cradling a baby, removes any sense of alarm from Marianne, who had just been in the midst of a nervous breakdown.

From Marianne’s thankful expression, it’s easy to guess that she thinks the interrogation has concluded with this. Her body language conveys this too... Her body that had gone stiff from constant stress and contraction, now seems to be loosening up like melting snow.

Allen picks up the jug of water for one final push.

He had originally prepared it in case Marianne was thirsty, but it had been left unattended since Marianne had asked for tea instead.

(When people talk about ghosts, getting sudden chills is common imagery... Then, this will do the trick.)

Allen signals to Elphilia to pull her hands away.

“...Elle?”

Marianne makes a puzzled face, but she doesn’t show a hint of tenseness.

Allen doesn’t miss the opportunity and drips the jug of water on her back.

Immediately she bites down on her glossy lips...

“Hyah♥ Yaan♥ Wh-what... mnn♥ Hnnnnngg███♥♥♥”

Marianne’s back arches like her body is a bow being pulled back, aching to be released.

Sweat splatters from her body as is convulses.

A sweet, yearning fragrance rises from her disheveled hair.

Since only a small amount of water was spilled on her, most of it is absorbed into her underwear, but evidently not all of it. The droplets mix with her sweat and overflow, dripping lewdly from the chair in a scene that sets off the imaginations of her two audience members.

“Nnnm♥ Haaa♥ Hah...♥”

Marianne’s body finally goes slack and she leans back in the chair, still trembling faintly.

Her expression is once again tinged with fear, and it’s easy to see that her mind is racing frantically.

“What was that... It’s too scary... It’s...”

Marianne’s, soaked with sweat and lotion, nearly falls out of the chair.

“I’ll give up... J-just, please... Tell me there are no ghosts... I’ll confess that Maria-chan here came up with the whole plan.....”

Allen takes his time to observe Marianne’s terrified state.

(Her willingness to surrender is no lie... She’s reached her physical limit, too, to the point where she can’t even lift a finger.)

It was a gamble not to allow her to use the bathroom in order to keep the scares uninterrupted. If an accident had occurred, even if they had gotten her to confess to the crime, it could have left a permanent, traumatic impression on Marianne’s mind.

The happenstance that Marianne had wanted to drink so much tea, Allen's perfectly timed use of the water from the jug, and above all, the friends who helped make the ghost story come to life... They walked a fine line with this plan, and it wouldn't have succeeded had any one thing been missing.

"Rebecca, you can turn the lights on!"

Allen calls towards the outside of the interrogation room.

The magic ore lights begin to glow brightly again.

"Elle... Bodyguard-san... You were there... Ahaha....."

Marianne's face softens once she realizes that there are no ghosts.

"...H-how did it go?"

Rebecca, who had just magically switched on the lights, peeks out from behind the iron bars.

"Hmm? Is it over?"

Marie opens a cabinet door and peaks out, her face dripping with sweat.

Marianne sighs with relief when she sees them.

"So it wasn't a ghost... I was just starting to feel safe when suddenly... Ahh, I umm... Still need the bathroom..."

"Maria, are you alright? Here, hold on to my body..."

"P-please... And, bring that bottle just in case..."

With Elphilia supporting her body, Marianne struggles to her feet.

Her inner thighs are greasy with sweat, and she's completely abandoned her composure as a princess.

Allen opens the locked gate and watches the backs of the princess sisters as they pad down the hallway leaning against each other.

“Case closed?”

Marie crawls out of the cupboard and looks up at Allen.

Allen regains his serious composure.

“No, we have one more mountain to climb.”

“...You got her to confess, didn’t you?”

Rebecca tilts her head curiously.

Allen nods to her.

“We will settle this today. For Elphilia-sama and Marianne-sama both...”

A little while after the interrogation, Allen heads to Elphilia’s room.

When he arrives, Elphilia and Marianne are drinking tea at the table, and Kurone is quietly watching over the two. It is an elegant scene that is hard to believe so soon after an interrogation in which one of these girls had been pushed to her physical and mental limits.

Rebecca and Marie, who had helped with the interrogation, and Gabriella and Rosa, who were waiting for the results upstairs, had been asked to leave for the time being. Marianne and Rosa wanted to talk to each other, but Allen convinced them to postpone their discussion until later.

“Thank you for your courageous confession earlier.”

Allen bows his head toward Marianne.

Marianne’s eyes widen in shock when she sees Allen.

“No, umm... Thanking me when I did something wrong in the first place is...”

“It’s hard for anyone to honestly admit their mistakes.”

“W-well... That’s true... Yes, you’re right.”

Marianne, who has never been able to get rid of her jealousy no matter how hard she tried, seems to have a good understanding of how difficult it is. Even if they admit their mistake in the moment, it is difficult for people to truly be able to change their minds.

“I really thought I’d been able to let go of these feelings, but then Rosa told me that Elle and Bodyguard-san were meeting in the middle of the night, and I couldn’t help but imagine what kind of relationship you two were having... I’ve caused trouble not only for Elle and Bodyguard-san, but also for Rosa-chan.”

“If you’re seriously reflecting on what you did, I couldn’t wish for anything more than that.”

Elphilia smiles at Marianne in her saintly manner.

“But if I had found my underwear in Allen’s clothes, I wouldn’t have suspected, let alone disliked, Allen. I know there is no way Allen would ever do that, and if he wanted my underwear, I’d be more than happy to give him the pair I’m wearing right now.”

Elphilia gives him a teasing look.

Allen is stunned for a moment but quickly clears his throat.

“You don’t need to give me your underwear. Serving you is already the greatest reward for me.”

“Now look! That’s exactly what I’m talking about, Bodyguard-san!”

Marianne puts her teacup down on the saucer so violently that the tea nearly spills over.

“I envy the kind of trust she has in you! It’s so good! So good!”

“It seems to me that the trust between Marianne-sama and Elphilia-sama is no less than the trust between Elphilia-sama and me. In the first place, the two of you have been together for a much longer time than I——”

“Well, well, let’s stop there, shall we?”

Elphilia interrupts Allen’s remark.

(As expected...)

Elphilia fails to notice the calm glance Allen gives her.

“More importantly, Allen, don’t you think your interrogation method of making a girl hold her bladder is a little——”

“I-It’s fine, Elle! We’ve already been over this! And anyway, the fault lies with Maria-chan for drinking so much tea right when the interrogation was about to start...”

“I-is that so? If Maria says so, then I suppose it’s fine——”

In the middle of Elphilia and Marianne looking out for each other...

“Both of you... The interrogation isn’t finished yet.”

...Allen interrupts their back-and-forth.

The two girls had been chatting jovially, but in that moment their hands that both held tea cups freeze.

“What does that mean, Allen?”

“As I said. The interrogation is not finished. If I can speak honestly, not only this one incident, but the whole series of events since Marianne-sama’s declaration of marriage... I believe that Elphilia-sama’s ambiguous attitude is also responsible.”

“Wha——”

Elphilia is taken aback.

Marianne, on the other hand, becomes angry.

“H-how can you say such a thing, Bodyguard-san!? Elle was about to have an important person taken away from her, but she waited for me to change my mind without a single look of disapproval! If it was really that important to her, she could have told me to stop at any time——”

“With all due respect...”

Surprisingly, it is Kurone who interrupts her.

Marianne keeps her mouth shut. She probably never expected that Kurone, as Elphilia’s faithful servant, would have her own opinion on the matter.

“Elphilia-sama and Marianne-sama cherish your current relationship so much that you are unduly afraid of hurting the each other’s feelings. If Elphilia-sama didn’t want Allen-sama to be taken away from her, you should have made your feelings on the matter clear to Marianne-sama.”

Allen silently applauds Kurone’s brave words in his heart.

She is able to form such a harsh opinion precisely because of how much she cares for her mistress.

Allen tells Kurone with a look that he will take care of the rest.

“There are some relationships that work out by never blaming the other person at all and accepting things as they are. But in the case of you two, that kind of behavior is having a negative impact. This is not a relationship of trust between best friends... It’s a dependent relationship that needs to be changed. So, I’m asking both of you, right here, right now, to graduate from that dependency.”

Hearing Allen’s request, Elphilia and Marianne look at each other.

He guesses that both of them had been thinking similar things in the back of their minds for a while now.

I can't keep this up... But for the first time in my life, I've found a friend of the same age who's even a princess like me. If I say something mean to them and they leave me, wouldn't it be better for me not to say anything at all?

They must have felt those kinds of doubts.

"You know, Elle..."

Marianne gently takes Elphilia's hand.

"Why don't we talk in bed? Just like when we had just met..."

"...Yeah."

Elphilia nods weakly.

Marianne slowly gets up from her chair.

"Bodyguard-san and Kurone-chan, could you please leave the room? I don't mind if you need to leave the door open..."

"We understand."

Allen and Kurone do as they were told and leave the room.

They leave the door to the room opened only slightly so that they can still hear the conversation.

"Elphilia-sama....."

Kurone folds her hands in prayer.

Allen pats her back gently.

"All we can do now is believe in those two."

Marianne seemed especially reliable just now.

She had just admitted to her wrongdoing after being subjected to Allen's brutal interrogation. Normally, she would be so exhausted, both physically and mentally, that she would have trouble staying awake. Despite her condition, the fact that she is willing to have a serious conversation with Elphilia shows how much she has grown.

The two girls are sitting side by side on the canopy bed.

Marianne holds her arms out toward Elphilia.

"Elle, please help me take this off. I can't sleep with my dress on."

"Aah... We've surely done this sort of thing many times."

Elphilia removes Marianne's dress.

Since she had changed her clothes after the interrogation, her fresh underwear is revealed beneath the dress.

Then, in turn, Marianne takes off Elphilia's dress.

They lay on the bed facing each other in only their underwear.

Their fingers intertwine as if to confirm each other's presence in the darkness.

Their silver and blue hair spreads out on the sheets, overlapping and blending together under the moonlight.

"Fufu... This really does bring back memories."

Marianne smiles at Elphilia.

"When we slept together like this, it used to feel like Elle and I were the only two people in the world... No, in fact, Elle was the only person I could see. As long as you were with me, I could endure my lonely life in the princess palace. But... that's also why I never realized that I was surrounded by so many people that were all supporting me."

“Maria.....”

“The truth is, I had maids to take care of me, guards to keep me safe, a doctor who looked after my health every day, and even Kurone was a good friend who worried about me... I had so many people protecting me.”

Hearing Marianne’s words, Allen feels deeply moved. Her eyes had suddenly opened to the realization that she had the support of many people in her life... It was just like when Elphilia as a young girl woke up to these same facts after being scolded by Allen.

“Now I have the support of even more friends.”

Elphilia squints her eyes and gazes lovingly at Marianne.

“I love all of you. Allen, Kurone, Rebecca, Marie, Gabriella-onee-sama, Diana, Rosa-san... And of course Maria too... I love you all equally. Loving another person doesn’t mean I love anyone else less. That should be a given...”

“That makes sense... That’s good then!”

...Marianne says brightly like the idea never occurred to her.

The hand that is intertwining with her own squeezes harder. Marianne’s hands are no longer cold, but are now filled with a loving, human warmth.

“No one is alone in this world. We all live here together with everyone else. Let’s graduate together from this once and for all, from this dependence like Bodyguard-san said. I’ve always wanted to graduate from something. I never got to go to a school graduation or anything like that.”

“Then... Yes, let’s graduate.”

“If in the future, Maria-chan starts throwing a tantrum, then please don’t hesitate to slap me. You know, just like in those cliché romance novels where everyone acts so dramatic!”

“And if I end up sugar-coating my words to you, please do the same to me.”

Elphilia and Marianne giggle together.

They let go of each other's hands and lay on their backs on the bed, looking peaceful.



Then Marianne turns over and looks at Elphilia's face.

"Can I stay here tonight?"

"Ehh!? Didn't you just say you were graduating!?"

"That's why it's my graduation present! But if Elle really doesn't want me to, then kick me out without mercy, okay? That's what we're going to do from now on!"

"Fufu... Actually, I wanted to you to stay tonight too."

Elphilia puts her arms around Marianne's shoulders in a hug and they lay close to each other for a while.

"Actually, I have to tell you something else... Maria-chan here still won't give up on Bodyguard-san, you know?"

"...Huh!?"

Elphilia's mouth gapes open at Marianne's sudden confession.

(Oi, oi, stop joking around...)

Allen, who is still listening to the conversation outside the room, is similarly shocked.

(No, in this case it might be worse if it's not a joke...)

Kurone, next to Allen, also has a look on her face makes it clear this is a big problem in her mind as well.

"I can already see Bodyguard-san, unable to stand the pressure from his parents, deciding to get married after all and finally coming crying to Maria-chan here... That kind of thing is definitely possible!"

"Uuu, Maria! Allen belongs to me!"

“I admit that Elle has her charms, but Maria-chan here has considerable good points as well...”

After listening to their conversation up to that point, Allen decides it's better to leave for now.

If they can finally be so honest and truthful with each other, he no longer needs to worry about them.

# Chapter 13 - My Sister is Wicked

A few days after Marianne's interrogation, Elphilia was invited to Marianne's garden, to be accompanied by Allen and Kurone.

Gabriella and Diana were also invited, which means that the personal bodyguards from the first to the third princesses should all be present.

The only strange thing is that Rosa is nowhere to be seen.

(It's strange for a princess to entertain guests while her bodyguard is absent... Has Rosa caught a cold? She's not frail, and she seems used to life at the princess palace... As her older brother, I can't help but worry about her.)

The three princesses are sitting around the garden tea table enjoying cups of Elphilia's blend of herbal tea.

The trio of bodyguards, Allen, Kurone, and Diana, are quietly watching over their mistresses as they happily chat with each other.

"You... I'm sure you've come up with another outrageous idea."

Gabriella is looking exasperated right from the start.

A bundle of documents labeled "Secret Plans" is lying on the table in front of them.

Marianne enthusiastically holds up the plans.

"Let's discuss then... This is Maria-chan's diva plan!"

The plan is a hand drawn picture that can't be said to be particularly good.

To be honest, there is no way to tell whether it is supposed to depict a human, an animal, or even an inanimate object, and it is so poorly drawn that it somehow even looks horrifying, though no one is inconsiderate enough to point that out to her.

“Me, Elle, and Gabriella-onee-sama... The three of us will form a diva group!”

“What a nice idea.”

...Elphilia says while drinking her tea elegantly.

On the other hand, Gabriella protests to the idea.

“I’m glad you and Elphilia are finally standing on your own. But how does that lead to us singing and dancing? And why am I even involved in this at all...?”

“Actually, this is something I’ve been wanting to do for a long time.”

Marianne sticks her tongue out mischievously.

“I’ve been seeing a lot of diva groups doing activities around the city lately, and they seem like a lot of fun. Ever since I was born, I have been singing only simple songs like national anthems and hymns, so I want to try doing more cute and cheerful songs... However, lately I was too preoccupied with my jealousy of Bodyguard-san, and Gabriella-onee-sama had also been acting strange lately——”

“I’m sorry I was so unapproachable.”

...Gabriella says with a pained frown.

Marianne was not very approachable either before she and Elphilia made up.

“I think it sounds interesting, onee-sama.”

Elphilia sides with Marianne.

“I also enjoy singing and dancing...”

“Well, becoming a diva and gaining popularity... is not a bad idea. The common people of the kingdom are anxious about the future because an heir still hasn’t official been announced. So if the three of us show we can get along well and work as a group, their anxiety will be relieved to some extent...”

After hearing Gabriella’s opinion, Marianne’s eyes twinkle.

“Gabriella-onee-sama, you really are thinking about the people.”

“You... Just what do you think I am?”

Gabriella glares at her.

“I have to say, I’m surprised at how much you’ve changed, Marianne. You sang hymns in church, but you we’re never very religious... So what changed to make you suddenly want to do something for the people?”

“Eh? Marianne-sama, aren’t you a devout member of the national church!?”

Diana is shocked by this.

Allen is honestly also surprised, but keeps it to himself.

(Then, what is the rosary she always wears around her neck?)

As if reading Allen’s mind, Marianne picks up the rosary in her hand.

“This is just fashion. A pious and sickly character is always popular, don’t you think? But, praying to the gods won’t make ghosts go away, you know...”

Allen finally understands. When Marianne was being interrogated, she never uttered a single word of prayer, despite being so afraid of ghosts. Now, it suddenly makes sense after hearing that Marianne is not actually religious.

“If our diva group ends up benefitting the public, that would be a good thing... That’s what I think. Having a good cause is important in these kinds of things, so let’s make sure we actively promote that aspect of our group.”

“...Well, I can’t say I disagree with the practicality of that approach.”

Gabriella says something uncharacteristically mature.

Elphilia listens to the exchange between the two with a smile.

“It sounds like fun, and it’s for a worthy cause, but the time could still be a problem.”

“That won’t be a problem. I’ve already thought of how to divide the labor.”

Marianne flips through the documents.

“Maria-chan here will be in charge of the music and choreography. Gabriella will handle the lyrics and costumes. And Elle, who is the busiest, will concentrate on practicing.”

“That sounds reasonable.”

Gabriella nods in agreement.

“Putting aside the question of whether it’s realistic or not, let’s continue thinking about it for now. Thinking about it, I don’t remember the three of us ever playing together...”

“Well then, please join me today to seriously play diva!”

“Hey, I’ve been meaning to ask you...”

Elphilia interrupts unexpectedly.

“I don’t see Rosa-san, is she doing alright?”

“Oh, Rosa-chan? She’s been feeling unwell for the past few days... Since you’re here, Bodyguard-san, perhaps you could go visit her? If you ask one of the maids, they’ll be able to show you where her room is.”

“Good idea. Allen, you should go see Rosa-san.”

Although he didn’t say anything about it, Elphilia and Marianne have both granted their permission.

(They must have noticed I was concerned about her...)

Allen bows to the two princesses in gratitude.

“Then I’ll accept your kind words and go visit my sister. Kurone and Diana, please take care of things here.”

“Leave it to us, Allen-sama.”

“Allen-dono, have fun with your little sister!”

The pair of lady bodyguards sends Allen off from the garden for the time being.

Marianne’s palace has an austere design like a church, with white painted walls and a chic black roof. A stained glass window at the entrance depicts a beautiful angelic figure.

(Is it my imagination, or does it that angel look a lot like Marianne-sama?)

Once you step inside the royal palace, there is still no excess to the decoration. The lighting also used less of the expensive magic ore which creates a calm, not-too-bright atmosphere. Marianne said her religious traits were just for the sake of build a character, but it seems that she’s been able to earnestly practice moderation, which is the motto of the national religion.

Rosa’s room is on the top floor of the princess palace, right next to Marianne’s.

Apparently, both rooms have the same layout, unlike Elphilia's princess palace where her room takes up the entire top floor.

"Rosa, are you there?"

Allen knocks on the door.

A weak response comes from the other side of the door, but the voice is too low for him to hear what was said.

"I'm coming in. Okay?"

Allen pushes open the door and enters Rosa's room.

Although not as spacious as Elphilia's balcony bedroom, Rosa's room is also quite large for a single person to inhabit. Since she has only been living here for a short time, there are almost no personal items in her room. The only furniture is what was probably prepared for her from the beginning.

"You came... Allen-onii-sama."

Rosa is lying face-up on a canopy bed over the covers.

When she gets up, she is dressed in a simple shirt, just like at the slumber party. As an older brother, it is an awkward feeling to be shown glimpses of his sister's collarbone and her bare legs stretching out from under the hem of her shirt. He's always known she is beautiful, but because she is his little sister, it's embarrassing to be confronted with it like this.

"I heard you weren't feeling well... Are you doing okay?"

"Fufu... You're so kind, big brother."

Rosa smiles slyly.

By all appearances she doesn't look to be in bad shape.

Allen has always been bad at spotting Rosa's mischief. More than once as a child she had pretended to be sick in an attempt to get Allen's attention.

And every time Allen fell for it and was tricked into playing along with Rosa.

Today however, he can clearly perceive her malicious intent.

“Rosa... What are you planning?”

Allen reflexively braces himself.

Rosa, still sitting on the bed, tosses a small slip of paper in his direction.

Allen picks up the piece of paper and finds that it is a colored photograph.

“Wha——”

The photo shows Allen spanking Elphilia’s ass.

It could only have been taken on the night of the slumber party.

“Is this... A picture you took yourself?”

“Yes, I took this picture as I watched it happen.”

From a cupboard in the room, Rosa takes out a photographic camera. It looks to be a state-of-the-art machine that can take pictures even in dim light.

“When I interrogated Lady Marianne, she didn’t say anything about this photograph... No, she said that you had told her about us meeting. That statement itself wasn’t a lie. So did Marianne-sama only tell me part of the truth in order to hide the fact that you were spying on us?”

“Yes, Marianne-sama did it to protect me.”

Rosa twists her hair around her fingers.

“But I’m afraid that girl is no good to me anymore.”

“What are you saying?”

“I was going to tear big brother away from Elphilia-sama and have Marianne-sama lock you up so that I could take care of you... That was my plan... But my efforts to drive Gabriella-sama away had the opposite effect, and after being invited to a pajama party, Marianne-sama started to feel better and now she’s even had a change of heart... There’s nothing I can do about it now, so I’ve given up using her to achieve my goals.”

“So then...”

Allen has a sudden realization.

“The scheme to put Elphilia-sama’s underwear in my uniform... That was your idea?”

“Naturally.”

Rosa has given up any intention of hiding the truth from him.

Her best friend being spanked by a bodyguard... That is certainly a shocking scene, but considering Marianne’s behavior up to that point, she would be more likely to become depressed and stay in bed than to have the flames of her jealousy ignited by such a situation. That is, unless Rosa was there to kindle those flames.

(She took sneak photos of the secret meeting between Elphilia-sama and me, and showed them to Marianne-sama to convince her to take some kind of action. Then, she suggested trying to destroy Elphilia-sama’s trust in me by putting the underwear in my uniform, and volunteered to do the deed herself if Marianne-sama ordered it so... I’m guessing it was something like that.)

It’s easy to imagine Marianne, upset after being shown the sneak photos, being goaded into giving the order by Rosa.

“And then, through a deliberately sloppy plan, you got caught and readily confessed that it was Marianne-sama’s order... right?”

“You’re correct, big brother.”

“Then, were you responsible for the matter of Gabriella-sama’s secret photos as well?”

“As expected of my big brother, you caught on quickly.”

During the “date” at the lakeside rest area, they happened to discover Gabriella and Diana, who were taking sneak photos of Allen... In hindsight, the development was all too perfect. Allen hadn’t thought anything of it at the time, but after all, Marianne had said it was Rosa’s idea to choose that place.

“My plan was to discourage any further voyeurism from Gabriella-sama by getting big brother to chastise her... I didn’t expect Marianne-sama to be put down by Gabriella-sama after that though. Gabriella-sama was not daunted in the least...”

Rosa rearranges her bare legs on the bed. The toenails of both her feet are painted with red nail polish.

“I am grateful to Marianne-sama for choosing me as her bodyguard. But, I’m tired of my plans failing because of that girl’s foolishness. So I decided to make Marianne-sama reflect on her behavior a bit...”

“I understand what you’ve been scheming now.”

Allen thrusts the photo at Rosa.

“So, what are your demands?”

“Fufu... There’s only one thing I want.”

Rosa got up from the bed and walks confidently towards Allen.

She presses herself closely against Allen’s chest and looks up at him with seductive eyes.

“Big brother, please marry me.”

Rosa’s hands lovingly caress Allen’s chest.

“I want you to quit your job as Elphilia-sama’s high-ranking interrogator. Then go with me somewhere far away... to a place where no one knows we are brother and sister. If you promise me that, then I’ll promise not to release that picture to the world.”

“...Rosa.”

Allen puts his hands on his younger sister’s shoulders...

“Don’t joke about that.”

...and pushes her down on the carpeted floor, pinning her shoulders so she can’t get up.

He can’t show any mercy to her, even if she is his sister.

“It seems you need a proper punishment. You humiliated Gabriella-sama for your own selfish reasons, and repaid her kindness to you with betrayal... And on top of that, you threatened Elphilia-sama. I can’t forgive you for any of those things.”

“Then what are you going to do with me?”

Rosa squirms around under his weight and looks at Allen provocatively.

Allen replies in a voice as cold as ice.

“There’s only one thing to do with you. Interrogation.”

Rosa was taken to the interrogation room.

Allen had intended to conduct the interrogation alone, but Elphilia and even Marianne decided to stay to assist him in the interrogation. Kurone, as usual, is waiting in another room in case she is needed. Gabriella had briefly stopped in to check on them but left with Diana after saying, “I’m expecting good results.”

Rosa was made to change into her guard uniform and sat down in a chair in the middle of the room.

She is about to be interrogated, but even now she keeps smiling devilishly.

“I’m so sorry, Elle… Please allow me to apologize for Rosa-chan as her employer.”

Marianne seems to be taking her responsibility as Rosa’s employer very seriously.

The sad and pained expression on her face is heartbreakingly watch.

“Don’t worry about it. You were only trying to protect your subordinate.”

Elphilia takes hold of Marianne’s hand to comfort her.

“Besides, the pictures haven’t been made public yet. The worst case has been prevented. Allen will take care of the rest, so all Maria has to do is keep watching over them.”

“Elle… You have the most reason to be angry, and yet…”

While the princess sisters are giving each other courage, side by side…

(Now, as a brother, I have to draw the line…)

…Allen pulls himself together and faces Rosa once again.

She doesn’t show even a hint of agitation.

Even with Allen’s “Grim Reaper’s Eyes” he could not see any obvious sign of a physical weakness from Rosa.

“Rosa, I’m going to start interrogating you now… No, it’s not really an interrogation because you have already admitted your guilt. Instead, I’m going to teach you a lesson as your older brother. You won’t be leaving this interrogation room until you are truly sorry.”

“You’re too nice, big brother…”

Rosa giggles.

“If those pictures were made public, Elphilia-sama and Allen-onii-sama would be in huge trouble... Despite it being a crime worthy of national treason, you would let it slide with a simple punishment, huh?”

“It’s not me who’s being nice... It was Elphilia-sama and Gabriella-sama’s decision.”

Elphilia nods at Allen’s words.

“I don’t want you to be punished too harshly... If you change your mind, I’ll forgive you. This is something I discussed with Gabriella-onee-sama as well and we agreed on the decision.”

“I am grateful to you.”

...Rosa says casually.

“I don’t dislike Elphilia-sama either. I love you. And I respect you. I am so grateful to you for giving my brother a new life. But that is also why I wanted to separate you from him.”

Rosa pats her own butt. A gesture that looks strangely suggestive.

“I was really happy when Allen-onii-sama spanked me as part of my training to become an interrogator. But when Elphilia-sama told me that you had also been spanked by my big brother, it caused my heart such tremendous pain. And then to make it worse, Elphilia-sama slipped out of her room on the night of the pajama party and... I thought I was the only one who received special affection...”

Rosa has the same kind of face she often made as a little girl when she was jealous of other girls around her big brother.

(I wonder if she honestly thinks of herself as a “healthy and pitiful little sister”...)

Allen won’t let himself be deceived this time.

“I’m going to start your lesson. Take off your clothes.”

“Yes, big brother.”

Rosa puts her hand under her guard uniform without hesitation.

On the other hand, Elphilia and Marianne are shocked.

“A, Allen!? Even if it’s a punishment, you’re seriously going to make your little sister remove her clothes!?”

“For a teaching method... Isn’t that way too extreme...”

“It’s a rule that anyone who acts like a fool in the Brackish household must face punishment. When I was a child, I was once punished for a prank by being hung naked from a tree in the yard. There is no distinction between men and women in this rule.”

A person born into a distinguished family of knights should never cause trouble for others.

That is the family motto of the Brackish family.

“I will accept any punishment my brother decides to give me.”

Rosa finishes taking off her guard uniform.

What emerges from underneath is a lean, slender body. Her waist is nicely defined, and her small buttocks, which have little fat, are firm and tight. Her slender and beautiful legs shine from how smooth they are and have a healthy beauty that easily catches men’s attention.

Her chest shows only the slightest hint of fullness, so that someone who didn’t already know her age might assume she had only recently reached the age of puberty. It evokes a sense of immoral pleasure, as if the momentary beauty of a girl ascending into womanhood has been frozen in time and preserved.

“Rosa, you...”

Allen’s brow furrows in disgust.

The underwear that Rosa is wearing can only be described as extreme and indecent. Both her bra and panties have only a narrow area of fabric, and both look to be tied on with thin, black strings. Depending on the angle one looks at her from, someone could mistake her for being naked.

Not only that, but just below her navel, there is a shiny pink “heart-shaped pattern”.

As far as Allen has seen, only barroom dancers would have a pattern like that on their skin.

“When did you get such a tattoo...?”

“Don’t worry, big brother. This isn’t a tattoo, but body paint. This is a love charm that was popular at the girls’ school. You see, inside the heart are the names of Allen-onii-sama and me... Ah, I never thought I’d have to reveal it to you like this♥”

“I don’t care for that kind of thing. Especially when it’s my own sister.”

“Fufu... You don’t have to pretend to be so innocent, big brother.”

The mysterious, shiny pattern on her lower abdomen looks like something that would belong on a prostitute or a succubus.

Marianne, blushing, asks in a whisper...

“A charm that can make your love come true... Elle, have you ever heard of it?”

“I never heard of it at the girls’ school I attended.”

Elphilia shakes her head.

“In the first place, for something popular at a girls’ school... I mean, isn’t it way too lewd...”

“Y-yeah, that’s right... It’s far too naughty for that...”

While overhearing their whispering...

“Why don’t you two give it a try?”

...Rosa makes a suggestion while showing them a devilish smile.

“I’m very particular about the paint that I use, but you can also substitute lipstick or nail polish. The important thing is that you write the names of yourself and the person you have feelings for... The moment you write the name of the person you love, it feels like you’re becoming the property of another person, and it gives you a feeling of indescribable satisfaction.”

“Heh, heh... Maria-chan is going to pass on that...”

Marianne’s whole back shudders.

Elphilia looks away awkwardly.

“We-well, I’ll keep that in mind as a reference... A-Allen, let’s start the interrogation!”

“Yes, let’s begin.”

Even though Allen had said this wasn’t a real interrogation, the first step is still to secure Rosa. Even if Rosa is only a rookie, she is still a knight.

To prevent her from becoming violent, Allen puts handcuffs on her.

“Ahaa♥ Allen-onii-sama is binding me, this is a dream come true♥”

“You should hope it doesn’t turn out to be a nightmare...”

“I don’t mind if it’s a nightmare, as long as I get to be with my big brother♥”

The handcuffs have chains attached to them, and Rosa’s arms are suspended from ceiling. Now she won’t even be able to defend herself, let alone escape.

Despite her situation, Rosa shakes her ass provocatively.

“Now, please give me my punishment♥”

Rosa’s face is flushed, and her whole body is slightly sweaty.

Allen puts one hand around her torso to secure her firmly in place.

Elphilia and Marianne audibly swallow their saliva in anticipation.

To begin, he swings a merciless slap at Rosa’s ass.

“Mnn♥”

Her firm, little ass makes a high-pitched sound like a whip cracking.

Rosa tightly purses her lips and savors the feeling of the shock rushing through her body.

Allen continues relentlessly and rapidly smacking her ass.

“Nhaa♥ That place♥ So good... Big brother♥ Amazing♥”

Red handprints quickly form on the twin hills of her small butt.

Rosa stretches out her legs straight and stands on her tip toes, not damping the impacts at all, instead accepting the full force of each spank. The impacts are so powerful that the strings of her underwear nearly slip undone.

“More... Please spank my ass more♥”

Allen isn’t holding back at all.

And yet, far from Rosa’s heart breaking, the abuse seems to rather be igniting a fire in her heart.

Her body is covered in sweat, and soon begins to emanate a rich fragrance that Allen never expected to belong to his own sister.

“I feel it♥ Big brother’s love♥ I’m... Nnnm♥ I’m so happy♥”

By this point he’s spanked her far more than he ever did during her interrogation training. But still there is no end in sight.

“Ahn♥ Big brother’s palm♥ Your thick fingers♥ Everything, I love it all... Haaahnn♥”

Rosa leaks out a moan of pleasure each time has ass gets hit.

Her body is totally begging for her big brother’s punishment.

Under the undependable, ultra-thin bra, the only parts of her barely distinguishable chest that identify her as a growing woman are the stiff, pink buds. Her small ass after receiving such intense spanking is twitching like it’s part of a separate organism, and the sweat trickling down her inner thighs gains more mass and momentum with every new smack.

(This girl... Even though I’m not holding back at all...)

Allen has no choice but to lower his right hand.

“Haa♥ Haa♥ What’s wrong, big brother~♥”

Rosa exhales a hot gasp, then licks her lips, looking unsatisfied.

“Have you given up on breaking my heart so soon? Is that the extent of my big brother’s love for me? You don’t have to worry about my body♥ Please let out all of your anger at me for threatening Elphilia-sama♥ I don’t mind even if big brother breaks me completely...♥”

“Don’t be an idiot.”

His basic ethics as a human being, even before his pride as a high-ranking interrogator, would never allow him to destroy the mind or body of an interrogation subject because of his anger.

(When I trained her before she played friendly in the same way...) {Lit. hid her claws}

Allen ponders.

(As long as I can't see any physical weak points, it won't be so easy to break her heart. Moreover, in Rosa's case, the more I torture her, the more delighted she is that she has my attention. In that way, Rosa is the same type as Elphilia-sama.)

If that's the case, he'll need to try some other method that doesn't involve putting his hands on her.

"Bodyguard-san... Did you figure out what to do?"

...Marianne asks anxiously.

"Unlike when you gave her interrogation lessons, Rosa-chan doesn't seem to be suffering at all... No, instead, it seems like it's only making her feel good..."

"Yes... but, that won't be a problem."

He can't see Rosa's physical weak points, but he does know what her mind can't tolerate.

The spanking he gave her was just a preparatory exercise.

(I was hoping that this would be enough to make her reflect... But this outcome wasn't unexpected.)

Allen decides it's time to use his secret weapon.

"I really didn't want to do this, but... Elphilia-sama, I'll need your help."

"Y-y-yes! Right away!"

Elphilia panics and attempts to undress.

She had completely forgotten to undress earlier in the face of the unusual interrogation between brother and sister.

But Allen is thankful for that oversight this time around.

“Elphilia-sama, come with me... Marianne-sama, please stay where you are.”

“Wh-what are you planning, Bodyguard-san?”

Marianne is getting nervous.

“Please keep an eye on Rosa to make sure she doesn’t do anything dangerous.”

“W-well, that’s something Maria-chan can easily handle...”

Allen grabs Elphilia’s hand without saying anything else.

Elphilia is also looking up at Allen with a puzzled look on her face.

“Allen? What about the interrogation?”

“It’s fine, just please follow me.”

“Ah, hrm... You can be so pushy sometimes...♥”

Allen leads her out through the iron gate of the interrogation room.

The gate is then re-locked and the two disappear up the staircase leading to the first floor.

Allen and Elphilia are no longer in sight of the interrogation room.

“Big brother?”

“Ummm... Bodyguard-san?”

Rosa and Marianne, left alone in the room, look at each other.

The interrogation room is quiet.

There is an awkward air between the two girls.

Suddenly, they hear a strange voice from behind the iron gate.

“Nnn... Nnnm... Nnaah♥”

The first thought that comes to both their minds is that it is Elphilia's agonized voice.

It's like she is groaning because she is struggling for breath... But there is a definite erotic quality to it.

“N-no way, big brother——”

Rosa's pale complexion turns red once she realizes what is going on.

Sweat, with a quite different scent from when she was being spanked, breaks out over her entire body.

“Ha, haaa!? W-wh-what are they doing!?”

...Marianne screams.

In contrast to Rosa, her face has gone completely pale.

“Big brother!? What are you doing!? Big brother!!”

Rosa shakes the chains suspending her from the ceiling. Of course, with her slender arms nothing is accomplished and the chains stay firmly in place.

“Untie me, big brother!! Get these handcuffs off me!!”

Rosa's voice, which should reach well outside the interrogation room, receives no response.

From behind the bars they hear a sticky sound like two tongues entangling with viscous fluids. They intertwine and taste each other to the point of breathlessness, savoring each and every overflowing sensation.

The obscene, wet sounds that can be heard from beyond the iron bars make it all too easy for them to imagine that kind of scene.

“I’m sorry, Elphilia-sama… This was the only way…”

“It’s okay, Allen… I wanted this too… Aah♥”

The rough breathing of both man and woman echoes through the interrogation room.

The scene conveyed only through sound is so vivid that even the sweltering heat of their bodies is palpable to the two girls listening.

“Allen… I can’t take anymore…”

“Yes, please… I can’t wait any longer either…”

A light, metallic clattering sound can be heard.

There is only one thing Allen carries that would make such a sound.

Then, the rustling sound of clothing being removed.

“Oh my… Such a magnificent one♥ As expected of the interrogator I chose♥”

They hear Elphilia’s delighted voice, a voice which seems to take supreme joy in submitting to a man, a voice which should not belong to a princess of the country.

And then more of the sticky, wet, lewd noises…

Rosa can’t hold back her screams.

“AAAaahhHH… Stop it! Stop! STOP!!”

Her screams echo through the interrogation room until her voice grows weak.

Rosa's legs are trembling so badly that she can't even stand upright anymore. However, with her arms bound she isn't able to sit either, so she hangs limply.

As if to prove the extent of her turmoil, a large puddle of sweat has slowly been spreading out beneath her feet.

“Big brother and Elphilia-sama, they seem so happy...”

The composure that she had maintained all this time has finally been stripped away from Rosa.

“I'm the one who can make Allen-onii-sama happiest! I'm the one who should be making big brother happy! But, the two of them sound so satisfied without me... I can't forgive it! It's unacceptable! How can you abandon me, your own little sister!?”



Going back in time a bit, Allen and Elphilia had just left the interrogation room.

Allen has his hands on the wall around Elphilia's body.

He puts his index finger over her glossy lips.

"I have an idea."

Allen says in a whisper too quiet to reach the interrogation room.

"Just listen for now, Elphilia-sama."

"Nnm... Allen's breath is tickling my ear...♥"

"I-I'm sorry about that... So, in Rosa's case physical torture has little effect... In fact, the more I torture her, the happier she seems to become to have me play with her body. For this reason, in order to get through to Rosa, and since I cannot touch her directly, I'll have to stimulate her mind by a rather extreme method."

For the direction of this interrogation, Allen is thinking of something similar to the "neglect torture" that he once used on Elphilia.

"I think it will be effective to take advantage of Rosa's warped sense of jealousy in order to make her reflect on her actions. Rosa can't stand the idea of Elphilia-sama and I getting along. So my plan is to let her jealousy run out of control and use it to——"

Elphilia pushes Allen's finger away from her lips.

"I get it. So I just need to act extremely friendly with you?"

"Yes, just as an act of course..."

"Don't worry. I learned what to do from my favorite romance novels."

Elphilia closes her eyes, purses her lips, and holds her breath.

Her expression is that of a maiden anticipating her first kiss.

With his hands still on the wall, Allen is forced to watch her face only inches away from his own.

Elphilia's lips are glistening, as if she is waiting for the kiss to be violently taken from her.

(This looks like a real invitation... No, there's no way——)

While Allen's mind is suddenly reeling...

“Nnn... Mmnn... Nnah♥”

...Elphilia, who has been holding her breath, finally exhaled, her face bright red.

The way she lets out repeated hot breaths, it is as if she had really just been kissing him.

Then, apparently having an idea, Elphilia suddenly takes the glove off of her left hand.

She makes a circle with her left index finger and thumb, and then she begins licking with her tongue as if “something” is in her hand. Her tongue, wet with saliva, glistens and moves as if it were another organism that survives by gorging itself on pleasure.

The ring made by her fingers becomes sticky with saliva, like she had used her hand to scoop up honey. The saliva drips from her wet fingers down onto Elphilia's chest, and each time it hits her, her face melts and she lets out a sweet moan of pleasure.

(R-right! This isn't the time to let Elphilia-sama act all by herself!)

Allen clumsily tries to put on a good act as well, but all he manages to do is let out pained sounding groans. Since this is an act of “getting along extremely well”, there should be some sense of joy in his groaning, but it is more difficult to do than he expected.

Although he had some experience in acting from when he was a knight, that experience didn't cover anything like this. This act of being close with Elphilia using only his voice is difficult for Allen, but it shouldn't be impossible.

Somehow, he manages to keep up the performance by following Elphilia's lead.

He can hear Rosa's cries from behind the bars, but since they are not words confessing her guilt, he ignores them.

Elphilia must be getting exhausted. She retracts her saliva-covered tongue, scoops up the saliva running down her chin with her fingers, and licks it off. She doesn't even bother to take out her handkerchief to wipe it up.

"I'm sorry, Elphilia-sama... This was the only way..."

"It's okay, Allen... I wanted this too... Aah♥"

A blend of sweat and saliva slides down her cleavage.

Her wet dress sticks to her skin, revealing the color of her bra behind it, an elegant lilac purple... Oddly enough, it's the same color she wore at the pajama party.

"Allen... I can't take anymore..."

"Yes, please... I can't wait any longer either..."

Allen can no longer imagine where this performance is going.

(No matter what she does, I have no choice but to play along... Huh!?)

Elphilia's right hand gently brushes Allen's abdomen. Her hand heads straight down and stops just above his belt. She hastily undoes it and drops the belt to the floor, causing it to clatter on the stone steps.

Then Elphilia's hand move to touch Allen's chest.

Even after becoming a bodyguard, he has not missed a day of training. Ever since he started wielding a sword as a member of the Royal Order, the thick muscles in Allen's chest have not diminished in the slightest... In fact, the muscles there have grown even larger and more dependable after he became a high-ranking interrogator, perhaps because he can no longer do as much with his legs.

Elphilia's right hand gropes around those impressive muscles.

Allen involuntarily clenches his teeth.

"Oh my... Such a magnificent one♥ As expected of the interrogator I chose♥"

Elphilia looks truly mesmerized as she takes her still-wet left hand and puts her index and middle fingers into her mouth.

Then, occasionally exhaling warm breaths with a soft moan, she tries running her tongue along her fingers as if licking a piece of candy, and repeating the motions of inserting and removing her fingers from her mouth.



The plentiful saliva makes obscene sounds as she sucks, and when she flicks her tongue out, the saliva hangs down in strings and continues dripping down onto her chest. The expression in Elphilia's eyes as she looks up at Allen at that moment is so sultry that it seems like she would accept anything he does to her.

(If she keeps showing me this kind of thing, I'll... I'll——)

Suddenly, Allen is jerked back to reality by the sound of Rosa's screams coming from behind the iron bars.

He can vividly imagine her being tormented by jealousy.

(Okay, one more push... And for that——)

Without a second thought, Allen grabs both of Elphilia's shoulders.

“Kyaa!? Allen, what are you...”

He forces Elphilia to turn around so that she is now facing the wall.

“Put your hands on the wall and turn your hips towards me.”

“S-suddenly your voice is so commanding... All right♥”

The change to the authoritative voice he uses in interrogations seems to have worked, and Elphilia's cheeks flush with glee as she adopts the pose Allen had instructed. She puts her hands on the wall and sticks her bottom out towards him.

She lifts up her skirt, exposing her beautiful, sweaty buttocks, looking like a peach wet with morning dew and smelling sweet as if proclaiming that it is ready to eat.

The lilac purple panties enveloping her elegant curves have already absorbed so much sweat that they have lost most of their usefulness as undergarments.

(If there's one method I'm good at, it's this!)

He pulls up the lilac panties, causing them to dig into her sensitive flesh.

"Nn...♥ Ahh...♥ I-if you pull so hard... it's rubbing my♥"

Elphilia's back involuntarily twitches and becomes stiff.

She looks back at him with tears welling up in her eyes.

"Allen is so suddenly... Doing something like this to me♥"

"Are you ready, Elphilia?"

"Yes, please... Make me a mess."

Elphilia shakes her ass, begging him to do it, no longer minding her panties digging into her.

Allen swings a slap at her inviting ass.

He can't let Elphilia break before Rosa confesses.

He decides to try a rhythmic spanking, not quite as hard as usual but so that the sound will resonate more.

Wap! Wap! Wap! The sound of flesh on flesh rings out.

"Ahnnn♥ It's more... Hahnn♥ Gentle than usual... Aaahnn♥"

"Do you want it harder?"

Allen varies the rhythm and intensity of his strikes. He starts with a quick succession of light spanks, then switches to more forceful spanks with longer pauses in between.

"Nnaah♥ Like that... I like it♥ More, I can feel it all over my body♥"

"You want it that bad?"

“G-give it to me... Give it to me harder...♥”

Elphilia’s words are slurred, so the only thing that can be heard properly is the part about “giving it to her”. Her face is dyed with pleasure as she begs Allen to give her more pleasure, exposing the lewd nature lurking under her regal exterior.

They still can’t hear anything suggesting Rosa has given up, but he also can’t let Elphilia exhaust her stamina, and so...

“Wait... Let’s take a break!”

...Allen is forced to reluctantly interrupt the spanking.

“Haaa♥ Haaa♥ Wh-why... More, I want more♥”

Elphilia’s mind is disoriented, leaving her unable to understand his intentions.

Impatient and unable to endure the teasing, she pleads with teary eyes.

“Please, Allen... Give me more♥ I want you to be rough, put all of your strength into it♥ I want it♥ I-I want Allen’s strong thing♥ I can’t stand it... I don’t care if think of me as a slut... So please screw me up so bad that I become completely yours♥!!”

The words that fall from her glossy lips are totally unfitting for a princess.

Allen at this moment however is listening intently to Rosa’s voice. Mixed with her cries echoing from the interrogation room are genuine feelings of regret and resignation.

The moment he hears this, Allen’s instincts tell him it is now or never.

“Let’s go hard then, Elphilia!”

He releases all the power he had been holding back and slams his palm down on her tender ass.

“~~~~~♥♥♥”

Elphilia arches her back as she lets out an inarticulate squeal of ecstasy.

The sharp sound of the palm slamming her buxom cheeks reverberates around the stone staircase.

Almost simultaneously...

“I’m sorry! I’m sorry!!”

...Rosa’s sorrowful cries come from the interrogation room.

“I’m sorry! I’ll reflect from the bottom of my heart! I understand that Allen-onii-sama and Elphilia-sama love each other... So, please don’t make me suffer like this! Please don’t treat me like an outcast!”

Allen presses her for confirmation.

“Do you promise you’ll never interfere with us?”

“I won’t! I swear I won’t!”

There was no trace of a lie in Rosa’s voice.

Her heart being completely broken by their act has made it impossible for her to hide from Allen’s “Power to See Through Lies”.

“Elphilia-sama... Perhaps you should rest here for a while.”

Elphilia, who was just standing with her hands on the wall, is now slumped down on the cobblestone stairs, completely drained. Her beautiful ass peeking out from under her upturned skirt has turned so red that it almost seems to be steaming.

“Hah♥ Hah♥ N-no... I’m okay. Take me to see Rosa-san...”

“Yes, ma’am.”

Allen takes Elphilia by the hand and leads her back to the interrogation room.

Rosa is totally unable to stand, hanging limply with her arms still suspended in the air and a large puddle has formed at her feet.

The heart-shaped pattern below her navel, rather than fading away with her sweat, appeared to be brightly shining. Apparently, the paint she used is similar the type Rebecca uses for her elf-style makeup, which does not come off even when she sweats.

Allen removes Rosa's handcuffs, worried she could end up hurting her arms if she continues to hang there.

She slumps down directly onto the puddle.

"No way, I didn't realize Allen-onii-sama and Elphilia-sama had such a close relationship..."

They aren't really as close as she believes, but Allen decides to keep quiet about it for now since telling her the truth would be counterproductive.

He's trying to get Rosa to reflect on the excesses of her behavior after all.

"But, that doesn't matter!"

Rosa suddenly stands up from the floor.

He thought she had been exhausted, but her eyes are sparkling with a bewitching light.

"Now♥ Let's continue together... With all three of us♥"

"Huh?"

Allen and Elphilia freeze in place, their eyes wide.

"No... Rosa? Are you still jealous of Elphilia-sama and my friendship..."

“Yes, I admit that I thought that way until just now...”

Rosa looks up to the heavens and spreads her arms out.

“But I’ve realized... I respect my big brother, and I also respect Elphilia-sama! And in that case, there is only one thing to do... The three of us can all enjoy ourselves together! That way no one will get hurt and we can all be happy!”

Rosa turns her glittering... No, glaring eyes towards the two of them.

“Now, let’s make love with the three of us♥ A harem centered around my big brother, a good old-fashioned polygamous relationship, it’ll be absolutely delightful♥ If it’s what Allen-onii-sama wants, I can be a second wife, a mistress, or even a pet. I’m fine with anything♥”

“No, no, in the first place, you’re my blood-related sister...”

“Ah... Just by imagining it, I’m already♥”

Rosa tightly hugs her quivering body while smiling ecstatically.

“Of course, I will love not only my brother, but Elphilia-sama as well♥ The person loved by the one I love is equally dear to me, after all♥ Fufufu... I can’t help but look forward to the three of us spending the night together♥”

The conversation is becoming difficult, and Allen and Elphilia both fall silent.

After their performance earlier, it would surely be impossible to convince Rosa she has the wrong idea about this.

“Aah... I just can’t stand it♥ Come on, don’t you want to go make love together right now♥?”

Rosa makes her appeal to a perplexed looking Elphilia.

(...Hmm?)

At that moment, Allen's eyes notice something strange.

A sign of a weakness that he didn't notice before is spreading throughout Rosa's entire body.

When it comes to a weak spot throughout the whole body, he's reminded of Rebecca's interrogation. She was quite ticklish, but in Rosa's case, it's on a completely different level. Moreover, this weakness becomes particularly apparent whenever she is looking at Allen.

"Big brother, why are you just standing there♥ You should instead be jumping on Elphilia-sama like a beast♥ It would be good if Elphilia-sama attacks big brother instead though... Mmn♥ Just imagining it is making something overflow inside me♥ Or maybe, big brother and Elphilia-sama both go after me together... Aahhhn♥ What a fantastic idea♥"

"A-Allen... Wh-what should we do about this...?"

Elphilia is looking uncomfortable and confused.

Rosa approaches her while panting hot breaths.

(The first thing to do is probably to calm her down.)

Allen pinpoints Rosa's weakest spot... He runs his finger over the crest below her navel. The one place of her slender body that still retains the slight chubbiness of a juvenile.

A moment later...

"Haaaaahhhh~~~~~♥♥♥"

...Rosa's spine arch and she lets out a sweet, high-pitched yelp.

"Ahhnn♥ Hah... Haaa♥ Aah, uuu...♥"

She clamps her thighs tightly shut and tries to endure the trembling of her whole body.

Despite her effort she can't endure it, and her hips move convulsively.

Her eyes are glazed and drool is even dripping from her half-open mouth.

"Hah♥ Hah♥ This pleasure, it's even more than I imagined...♥"

"No, it wasn't really my intention to——"

"Big brother's finger♥ It's as if, it's reaching deep inside my body♥ Like my most sensitive spots are being stirred up♥ Ha♥ Ha♥ Nnm... Mah♥ Uuu..."

And like that, Rosa faints.

Allen catches her crumpled body.

"You've finally calmed down..."

Rosa is sleeping comfortably and peacefully.

Rosa's sleeping face is exactly the same as when she used to follow Allen around when she was a little girl.

No matter how far she goes, to Allen, Rosa will still be his adorable little sister.

"I guess we're safe for now."

"Y-yes, I suppose so... For a minute there I really wasn't sure what would happen..."

"Until now, Rosa had only been interested in being loved and loving others. However, it seems she has finally grown up. She's now able to find genuine joy in the happiness of others, instead of just considering her own interests. She's even developed affection for the people around the person she loves. I really believe Rosa has matured today."

"Uhh, I wonder if that's really the case? It's more like... Isn't this just a warped kind of sexuality..."

Elphilia looks uncertain.

Allen takes Rosa in his arms and moves her to the bed.

The way she quietly sighs in her sleep really makes her seem her age.

(I'm not so sure about this underwear and the heart-shaped crest though...)

Allen feels almost like a father worrying about his teenage daughter.

"For some reason, it feels like we're forgetting something important... Ah!?"

"Yeah, I was just thinking the same thing as Allen... Ah!?"

Allen and Elphilia turn around at the same time.

In the corner of the interrogation room, they see Marianne passed out with her eyes wide and blank.

It seems that this whole exchange was a little too stimulating for her.

"Marianne came all this way to watch over the interrogation and I ended up causing her so much trouble."

"We should also explain properly what happened earlier....."

The tension created by the interrogation finally relaxes.

Allen and Elphilia look at each other and laugh comfortably.

# Chapter 14 - A Princess's Character

{TL: The original title of this chapter, “姫の性”，literally translates to “A Princess's Character” or “A Princess's Caliber”, but the “性” kanji can also be slang for “pussy”. Anytime the word “character” is used in this chapter, the same kanji is used.}

A day has passed since Rosa's interrogation... and lecture in the Brackish family style.

Allen is visiting Marianne's garden alone to ask about how Rosa will be handled from here on.

Thus only three people are present under the wisteria trellis in the center of the garden.

Marianne is sitting at the tea table, leisurely writing something.

Allen and Rosa are seated next to each other facing Marianne.

He feels like a father accompanying his daughter to an interview.

“Umm... Are you sure about this?”

...Rosa asks after being informed by Marianne about her future.

Rosa has completely lost her cool energy, and her back looks smaller than ever.

She looks nothing at all like a bodyguard or a royal knight and instead resembles a schoolgirl at a parent-teacher conference.

“Yes, Rosa-chan will continue to be my bodyguard.”

Marianne raises her hand to sip from her cup of warm herbal tea.

Allen is also surprised by her decision.

To Marianne, Rosa must seem like a girl who had seduced her, used her, and then thrown her away in the end. Where is the logic in her letting someone who has looked down on her continue to work as her retainer...

Even without those circumstances, Marianne and Rosa started their relationship in the first place to cooperate towards a common goal. Now that Marianne has outgrown her dependency on Elphilia, there should be no reason to keep Rosa around.

“I am extremely grateful for the opportunity.”

Rosa understands this too, and her mouth flaps open as she speaks.

“To be able to be near my brother and Elphilia-sama, to watch the two of them become even more happy, and to continue my training as a high-ranking interrogator. But, to Marianne-sama...”

“Don’t be so gloomy, Rosa-chan.”

Marianne smiles brightly.

“Maria-chan here knows exactly how you feel. I’d always wanted to be the one to make Elle happy. And I thought nothing else mattered more than that.”

“...It was the same for me.”

“But other things do matter, right? We are supported by so many people. And the people we love are also surrounded by people who support them. Now that I understand that, I’ve realized that just seeing Elle happy is enough for me.”

“Yes! I also... I also think that way!”

Rosa nods and puts her hand to her chest.

“As long as I can keep a close watch over big brother and Elphilia-sama...”

“So you see, Maria-chan and Rosa are very much alike. And so, Maria-chan here will give you a place in my princess palace. I know you will grow into a splendid bodyguard and interrogator... That is our new agreement!”

Marianne stands up from her chair.

At this moment, Allen can clearly feel from Marianne a character worthy of a princess.

(It looks like she's managed to break free from her dependency and undergo a real transformation as a person...)

Seeing this makes Allen truly happy.

“I, Rosa Brackish, will serve you to the best of my ability!”

Rosa kneels before Marianne and hangs her head low.

“Yes, I look forward to working with you♪”

Marianne takes Rosa's hand with a big smile on her face.

“With that said, I'll be looking after your little sister for a while, okay?”

“Yes, thank you very much.”

Allen, feeling relieved, also stands up from his chair.

(I was able to witness my sister's new start in life. With this, everything has been settled.)

Then Rosa, who was holding hands with Marianne, turns around.

She is squinting with large tears like jewels in her eyes.

“I will become a good bodyguard and high-ranking interrogator here. I will repay my debt to Marianne-sama for forgiving me and letting me watch over Allen-onii-sama and Elphilia-sama’s future.”

“Hmm, I’m rooting for you too, Rosa.”

“So, you know...”

Rosa blushes like a maiden in love.

“...When you make love to Elphilia-sama, be sure to include me sometimes as well, okay?”

“...Elphilia-sama and I don’t actually have that kind of relationship.”

“You don’t have to be so reserved around me, big brother♥”

“And besides that, you are my blood-related sister——”

“Second wife, mistress, pet, even a purely physical relationship... I’ll accept anything♥”

It might be impossible to completely straighten out her way of thinking.

“...So, everything with Rosa has settled down.”

After leaving Marianne’s garden, Allen was called to Elphilia’s room.

Elphilia is wearing a simple one-piece dress and laying face down on the bed while Kurone is massaging her shoulders and back.

Elphilia’s work keeps her as busy as ever, and no matter how young and energetic she is, she is bound to get tired. Kurone is trying to learn to give massages better in order to heal her mistress as much as possible.

“I’m glad to hear that Rosa is doing well... Nn! Kurone, that hurts!”

“I-I’m so sorry... Umm, maybe this way.....”

Kurone is giving the massage with clumsy hands while looking at a book titled “Mysterious Eastern Massage Techniques”. Elphilia keeps saying, “Not there!” or “Be gentler!” as she gives advice to Kurone.

Allen is sitting in a chair by the bed and quietly watching the massage take place.

“Actually, I have to apologize to Elphilia-sama for something.”

“What do you have to apologize for?”

“The method I used to discipline Rosa. What I did was too extreme. It wasn’t right to make Elphilia-sama do such a thing… No, even putting aside your position, to make a woman of your age act like that——”

“Please don’t worry about it, Allen.”

There is really not a single sign of ambiguity in Elphilia’s words of comfort.

Her magnanimity and the quality of her character are obvious.

“I was happy to be able to assist you. Also, pretending to be your lover was enjoyable. We also pretended to be lovers when we were hiding Diana in the princess palace, but… This time felt much more genuine.”

“I think Elphilia-sama’s imagination of a lover might be too extreme…”

“That’s my ideal kind of relationship. But maybe Allen dislikes things being that extreme?”

“Well, it was just an act, so let’s put that aside…”

For a moment, Allen imagines what it would have been like if it hadn’t just been an act.

Elphilia, perhaps catching on to those thoughts, smiles coyly at him.

Before their conversation can be taken any further…

“Elphilia-samaaa! Big sister came!”

“No, you’re not allowed to call me ‘big sister’!”

...Marie and Rebecca, followed by Gabriella and Diana arrive at the room.

The reason why all four of them were called here is to be test subjects for Kurone’s massage practice.

Kurone wants to improve quickly for Elphilia’s sake after all.

Rebecca bows politely.

“Thank you for inviting me!”

“Welcome, Rebecca.”

“Hearing about Eastern-style massages makes me feel so nostalgic.”

“Oh... Just be careful not to get yourself hurt.”

“Huh?”

Rebecca is a bit confused by her concern.

From the way Elphilia is talking, it seems that Kurone’s skills still have a long way to go.

Will Rebecca’s body really be able to endure it... Allen is concerned for her.

“It’s been a long time since I’ve had a massage, so I’m looking forward to it!”

Diana is also eager, oblivious to what is about to happen to her.

When they were in the Royal Order together, Allen and Diana used to give each other massages after practice, so he knows that she is quite good at it.

Her and Kurone are both bodyguards, so she should be able to give some effective advice without being too blunt.

“E-everyone has such high expectations... I-I’ll do my best!”

Kurone rekindles her determination so that the pressure doesn’t get the better of her.

Her hands, still massaging Elphilia, are also full of energy.

Allen pats her on the shoulder and says...

“Good luck, Kurone!”

“From what I’ve seen of your technique, I suppose there is room to improve.”

Gabriella carefully observes Kurone as if evaluating her.

“Well, I’m always getting massages from Diana, so I won’t be satisfied with just any ordinary massage... But leaving that aside, I have something to say about Allen’s little sister.”

“Yes, go ahead.”

Allen stands up from his chair and straightens his posture.

Gabriella clears her throat.

“I understand that she’s reflected on her actions, and I don’t really mind at all. In the first place, the incident with the voyeurism... Well, I was the one to blame for that, and the interrogation really made me feel better about the whole situation. I want to make up with Rosa too, so I’ll go see her later.”

She honestly admits her errors and does not hold grudges about the past.

In Gabriella too, Allen can sense a character worthy of royalty.

“Thank you very much. I’m sure she’ll be very pleased.”

Allen bows and expresses his gratitude.

(Marianne is now on her own and Rosa has a place to belong. I have to continue to devote myself to protecting Elphilia-sama and improve my skills every day! Well, it would be best if things remained peaceful...)

Surrounded by the girls, Allen's calm daily life passes by.

Allen decides to slowly recuperate his energy in preparation for the next incident.

# Afterword

First, I would like to express my gratitude. From the design of the new characters to the tapestries {TL: Referring to fan merchandise released with the novel}, Mutsutake-sensei drew wonderful illustrations. The editor in charge of this project, who again supported the creation of this series. And all the readers who have read this work. Thank you very much!

It has been a long time since I was able to publish the second volume of a series, but writing the second volume while rereading the first one I wrote was a lot of fun! What I was surprised most about is that Gabriella has been promoted to a regular character and Rosa being introduced as Allen's little sister. Neither of these things were in my mind when I was writing the first volume, but the interesting thing about writing a novel as a job is that these ideas come up that I would not have thought of on my own.

At the end of last year and while writing this novel, I was playing a number of god-tier games. "Uncharted", "The Last of Us", "Monster Hunter: World", "Ōkami HD", and "Dark Souls: Remastered"... They are all stunning 3D action games.

Among them, "Uncharted" is the most casually playable, similar to a western version of "Ico". The game involves scaling crumbling cliffs and uncovering ancient ruins. There are many times when the adventurer protagonist teams up with his friends, and they save him in his hour of need.

A further development of this game is "The Last of Us," made by the same developer. In this game, the protagonist fights against zombies and rogue soldiers, sometimes in groups of three or four, while protecting a fragile girl. In emergencies the girl will fight with him, but is it really appropriate

to give her a dangerous weapon... I am sure that playing the game will make you think deeply about it.

Of course, I also enjoyed “Monster Hunter: World”. I particularly loved the SOS flare system, and I would play by responding to the topmost SOS requests in the list. I hope to see more online play opportunities for chance encounters without the need for communication in the future.

As for “Okami HD”, I had heard that it was incredibly moving, and it truly was, I cried a lot. {TL: There are some tiny spoilers for Okami here, so I’m not going to translate it.}

Finally, “Dark Souls: Remastered” was, as usual, the best of the best. According to what I hear, a genre of games called “Souls-Like” is being established similar to “Rogue-Like”. Even if this is the end of the Souls series, I am very much looking forward to seeing what will come out of the genre and be carried on in many more games.

Have a good light novel and game life, everyone!